West Virginia's Stallions | Federal Racing Legislation | The Great Discovery

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 29, Issue 2
FEBRUARY 2021



Slam Dunk

Maryland-bred Knicks Go tops region in 2020





BARRY A. BORNSTEIN

Aiken or the Alps? *Blue Peter's Tree, in the infield at Aiken Training Track in South Carolina, shows some winter color.*

In this issue

West Virginia stallions make impact in state

Fiber Sonde leads the way (along with his sidekick Hank) as West Virginia's stallion roster fuels state's breeding/racing industry with homegrown talent. By Joe Clancy. Page 22

Washington goes racing

The House and Senate approved the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act, and President Donald Trump signed it in late December, so Thoroughbred racing in the United States will have to do things differently starting July 2022. What does it mean and what happens now? By Joe Clancy. Page 26

Laurel Park 2020: Bobby G keeps on running

The iron horse of his time, Bobby G puts up 17 starts in 2020 after making the gate 18 times in 2019. Trainer Jonathan Maldonado tried to claim the Kentucky-bred two years ago, but gets the privilege now. By Tom Law. Page 32

Parx Racing 2020: Salsita Roja too hot to handle

A perfect 6-for-6 in 2020 (all at Parx Racing), Salsita Roja shines for owner/trainer Herold Whylie. By Tom Law. Page 34

Charles Town 2020: Star of Night leads Runco stable

Leading trainer Jeff Runco and Star of Night weathered the storm in 2020 to finish out on top at Charles Town. By Paul Halloran. Page 36

Cover: **Knicks Go, the top-ranked horse in the *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*/The Racing Biz poll, makes exercise rider Mario Garcia work.** Photo by Holly Smith

DEPARTMENTS



Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred
Volume 29, Issue 2

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Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred (ISSN 1056-3245) is owned and published monthly by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, 321 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136. (410) 252-2100; Fax (410) 560-0503. Subscription rate $36 per year. Subscription rate outside the U.S. $91 per year (surface mail), payable by U.S. money order or by bank draft payable in U.S. funds. Canadian GST No. 130277759; C.P.C. IPM No. 0956988. Subscription price included in annual membership dues to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

Periodicals postage paid at Lutherville-Timonium, Md. 21093 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred,** 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136.

Single copies: $5 current issue ($7 back issues past 12 months), plus $4 postage and handling. $15 Stallion Directory (December issue); $15 Statistical Review (March issue), plus $5 postage and handling. Maryland residents add 6% sales tax.

Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred is mailed to paid subscribers; to licensed owners and trainers in the eight-state region; and to active members of those breeder associations which comprise the **Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Council:**

Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Cricket Goodall, *executive director,* 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136. (410) 252-2100.

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West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association, P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414. (304) 728-6868.

Printed by The Lane Press, Burlington, VT
Printed in the U.S.A.

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FEBRUARY EVENTS → 2021



GENERALS' / FRITCHIE $900,000 WINTER SPRINTFEST

Saturday, February 13, 2021
12:25 PM Post

FEATURING

- $250,000 General's Stake (GIII) – 4&up
- $250,000 "Run Happy" Fritchie (GIII) – F&M 4&up
- $100,000 Miracle Wood – 3YO
- $100,000 Wide Country – F3 YO
- $100,000 John Campbell – 4&up
- $100,000 Nellie Morse – F&M 4&up

PRESIDENT DAY SPECIAL LIVE RACING
MON/FEB 15
12:25 PM Post

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WALKING AWAY. Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard announced his retirement in early January–after 56 years as a trainer. The Pennsylvania horseman won 26 National Steeplechase Association championships (including the 2020 crown) and trained the winners of 3,426 races on the flat and over jumps. *Tod Marks*





SAY IT AGAIN

"Is it fun getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning in this cold? No. But he makes it worthwhile."
John McKee, owner of West Virginia stallion Fiber Sonde

"There's an old saying, 'People don't die early in the breeding business because they're always waiting for the foals of next year.' "
McKee, sounding like a philosopher

"The thought crossed my mind but, no, we got him to be a stallion."
Trainer (and stallion manager) Ronney Brown, about putting new arrival Vorticity back in training

"The decisions we make today, we don't know if they pay off for four or five years. We need stability. We think we have that now."
O'Sullivan Farms' John Funkhouser, on the long-term planning necessary in the Thoroughbred industry—especially when it comes to state breeding incentive structures

"He's a strong horse. A couple times he [almost] ran off with me. He's tough."
Exercise rider Mario Garcia about riding Knicks Go in the morning (see cover photo)

GO FIGURE

10.9 Billion dollars bet on United States Thoroughbred racing in 2020, down less than 1 percent compared to 2019.

870 Million dollars (almost) in purses distributed in U.S. Thoroughbred racing in 2020, down more than 25 percent compared to 2019.

27,700 Individual U.S. Thoroughbred races in 2020, down more than 23 percent compared to 2019.

416 Names of the Month published in this space since February 2012. Absentee to Zoo.

26 National Steeplechase Association training championships for Jonathan Sheppard, officially the all-time record after he announced his retirement in January. Jack Fisher is the active leader with 13.



GEORGE ADAMS

Field Day. This turnout paddock at Maryland's St. Omer's Farm showcased all sorts of animal feats during a January morning (no word on whether the horse or the geese followed the deer).

NAMES OF THE MONTH

Leftatthealtar. The 4-year-old filly, in action at Parx Racing this winter, is by Broken Vow.

Diamond Setter. The 6-year-old gelding, a winner of six races through Jan. 11, is by Gemologist.

Chevy to the Levy. The 7-year-old mare, an Indiana-bred who won at Parx in January, is by Maclean's Music.

NAME OF THE MONTH (THROWBACK EDITION)

Blind Drunk. The 1974 foal, a winner at Keystone and Pocono, was by Farewell Party out of Nearsight (and bred by Mike and Iris Freeman).



SV Photos

INSIGHTFUL
Winner WIRE-TO-WIRE in second start, Tampa Bay Downs, 12/30. Won next start on 1/15 by 4!


Jim McCue

SUE LOVES BARBADOS
Winner first time out by a confident 2 lengths, Laurel Park, 1/8

BARBADOS FIRST CROP: 2 STARTERS, 2 WINNERS



Barbados

Speightstown–Northern Station

Top son of SPEIGHTSTOWN on dirt in the region quickly proving himself as a sire

$2,500 LFSN; BC & MM nominated

Also Standing:

RAINBOW HEIR (Wildcat Heir–Rainbow Pride) G3 winner of $837,395 **NEW FOR 2021**
OUTFLANKER (Danzig–Lassie's Lady, by Alydar) Top durability sire in the region

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MILESTONES

Announced: One Mid-Atlantic stakes, Monmouth Park's Red Bank from Grade 3 to listed, in changes announced by the American Graded Stakes Committee of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association. The 2021 calendar includes 445 graded stakes nationwide. No other regional stakes were affected.

Offered: The 2021 Thoroughbred Owner Conference, as a series of free virtual panels, by OwnerView. "This new format enables us to offer informative, educational and enjoyable panels on Thoroughbred ownership to anyone interested from the convenience of wherever they happen to be," said Gary Falter, project manager for OwnerView. "Each month's conference will cover a topic that is relevant to Thoroughbred ownership and, when possible, coincides with what is happening in the Thoroughbred industry at that time of year." OwnerView is a joint effort of The Jockey Club and the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association to encourage ownership of Thoroughbreds and provide accurate information on aspects of ownership. The first panel will be Tuesday, March 2, and will cover economics. Each panel will be streamed live, and attendees will be able to ask questions via typed messages that will be addressed at the end of each panel. Replays of the panels will also be available at a later date. There is no registration fee, but registration is required. See ownerview.com.

Welcomed: New staffers to the National Steeplechase Association. Emery Jones Taylor of West Grove, Pa., assumes the title of business administrator, focusing on financial affairs. She brings more than 40 years' experience in various aspects of Thoroughbred racing along with accounting, bookkeeping, budgeting, real estate and client-relations skills, and replaces general manager Pete McGivney, who retired after 30 years on the job. Harper McVey is the new assistant to the director of racing. The recent graduate of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y., will fill the opening created by the retirement of Nancy Dougherty, NSA's executive secretary for 25 years.

Available: To those interested in providing aftercare or assistance for a Thoroughbred, contact information submitted through The Jockey Club Registry's Thoroughbred Connect program when a horse's digital certificate of foal registration is accessed by the certificate manager. Thoroughbred Connect enables anyone with an Interactive Registration account to express his or her willingness to be contacted by someone in possession of a Thoroughbred in the event the horse is in need of aftercare or assistance. It is also a resource for horse owners to

NEW FOR 2021 TO PENNSYLVANIA

Rowayton won a $92,000 6½ furlong allowance at Belmont Park in 1:14 4/5,
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MILESTONES

list a Thoroughbred in need. Said trainer Graham Motion: "We at Herringswell Stables believe in the importance of ensuring that Thoroughbreds are cared for at all stages of their lives and have attached our contact information to physical copies of foal papers for years. We are excited to take advantage of The Jockey Club Registry's update to Thoroughbred Connect, which replicates the purpose of stickers and stamps in the age of digital certificates."

Approved: Seven weeks of racing, from July 1-Sept. 1 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday), at Colonial Downs in New Kent. In its third season under ownership of the Colonial Downs Group, the meet will include 21 race dates. "Purses are projected to average at least $500,000 per day absent any unforeseen events like an increase of the pandemic beyond its current intensity," said Frank Petramalo, Virginia HBPA executive director. The meet highlight is the Grade 3 Virginia Derby, the date to be announced.

Opened: A fifth Rosie's Gaming Emporium, in Dumfries, Va., by the Colonial Downs Group. The site features 150 slots-like gaming machines, simulcast horse racing, restaurant and bar. Colonial Downs Group and its five Rosie's Gaming Emporiums will generate more than $32 million in state and local taxes annually and have created upwards of 1,000 jobs statewide with an annual payroll of more than $30 million.

Won: Her 1,000th race, jockey Carol Cedeno, at Laurel Park Jan. 2. She guided Newtown Anner Stud Farm's Perpetrate to win a three-way photo. The total includes six in Puerto Rico. "I'm so happy because not too many girls from Puerto Rico come here and do good," Cedeno said. "When I came to the U.S., everybody gave me a hand and I appreciate that. Everybody helped me, the trainers and owners. Everybody was happy with my job and they keep helping me. Thank God I'm doing good." Cedeno is a six-time leading rider at Delaware Park, tying Michael McCarthy for the most in track history. On July 11, 2018, she set a Delaware Park record with seven winners on a 10-race card.



THE RACING BIZ
The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Pimlico-Laurel redo project kicking to life: One of these years, Maryland racing will find a shiny new Pimlico under its Christmas tree. But it's going to take a while, reports Frank Vespe after a conversation with Maryland Stadium Authority executive vice president Gary McGuigan.

Horseracing Integrity Bill passes Congress: The sprawling Covid-19 relief and government spending bill passed by Congress includes the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act. Vespe takes a look.

Charles Town steward Danny Wright retires: "No regrets," said Charles Town chief steward Danny Wright who retired Dec. 19, ending a 50-year career that saw him win 12 graded stakes as a jockey before years in the stand, Ted Black reports.

Memorable Moments–Kelso wins the International: Kicking off a series on Memorable Moments in the Mid-Atlantic, Linda Dougherty looks at "fourth time the charm" for Kelso, when he won the '64 Washington, D.C., International.

10 Stories That Mattered in 2020: The Racing Biz looked back at the strange year of 2020, revisiting 10 stories to help tell the tale.

Jock Denis Araujo making way through adversity: Denis Araujo was leading the Charles Town jockey colony in wins before a minor injury, visa problems, and Covid-19 hit. Now he's working to build it back, reports Black.

A Maryland-bred Hero–25th Anniversary

CIGAR

Champ is Back



Donn Handicap-G1
February 10, 1996 - Gulfstream Park

Would he–could he–live up to his undefeated season? That was the question when Cigar returned to the races less than four months after his victory in the Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 to cap a 10-for-10 season.

Trainer Bill Mott sent Allen Paulson's homebred out to defend his title in the Grade 1 Donn Handicap at Gulfstream Park, less than 24 hours after Cigar earned Eclipse Awards for Horse of the Year and champion older male, and his connections carried home trophies for owner, trainer and jockey (Jerry Bailey).

Facing seven others and carrying top weight of 128, giving 11 to 18 pounds to his rivals, the 6-year-old son of Palace Music cruised home a 2-length winner over Mott trainee Wekiva Springs. Champion mare Heavenly Prize was a well-beaten third. The chart comment? "Easily."

"I never really asked him to run," said Bailey. Mott commented, "He knew what he had to do, and he did his job." A crowd of nearly 20,500 turned out to the Hallandale, Fla., track to witness Cigar's return. "I guess it proves the people like to come out and see a champion in the flesh and shows there's still a little romance left in the sport after all," reflected Mott.

Cigar was the first horse from Maryland to earn the Horse of the Year honor since Challedon in 1939 and 1940.

The Donn win was Cigar's 13th in a row. After setting a single-season earnings record the previous year with $4,819,800, he was expected to be the favorite in his next start, in a trip halfway around the world–the inaugural $4 million Dubai World Cup at Nad Al Sheba at the end of March–the world's richest race.





Knicks Go tops 2020 poll of regional-breds

By Sara Gordon



ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE/CAROLYN SIMANCIK

Despite the seemingly endless stream of lows that encompassed most of last year, Knicks Go was one of the bright spots for racing with his return to the track and back-to-back record-breaking performances, which landed him the top spot in the final *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*/The Racing Biz poll for 2020.

Owned by the Korea Racing Authority, Knicks Go was bred in Maryland by Sabrina Moore and her mother Angie and foaled at their GreenMount Farm in Glyndon. Transferred from the barn of Ben Colebrook to trainer Brad Cox early last year, Knicks Go went 3-for-3 in 2020 and concluded with a win in the $1 million Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile-G1 at Keeneland as the 9-5 favorite.

The perfect, if short, season followed a winless eight-start campaign in 2019 when Knicks Go tried to get on the Kentucky Derby trail, but his best derby appearance was when second in the Ellis Park Derby in August before three subsequent losses ended his 3-year-old season.

In his first start for Cox, the gray son of Paynter kicked off his 4-year-old year at Oaklawn Park in February with an allowance victory–his first win since the 2018 Breeders' Futurity-G1 at Keeneland at 70-1. Of course, 2020 being 2020, Knicks Go went to the sidelines with a bone chip in a knee. He got back to work in July, and returned to the races in October by winning a 1 1/16-mile allowance at Keeneland in a track record 1:40.79.

That sent him on to the Breeders' Cup World Championships almost a month later, where the Maryland-bred ruled the Dirt Mile at every step and set the 1-mile track record of 1:33.85. It was his second trip to the Breeders' Cup, following a second in the 2018 Juvenile-G1 at Churchill Downs.

"He's all business when he steps on the racetrack," said Cox in January. "But prior to that, prior to training, [when he's] around the barn and in the stall, he's a super classy horse. He's got that 'it' factor I guess that a lot of good horses have, they know when to turn it off and on. He's a very classy individual, which is the best way to describe him."

The winner's share of $520,000, combined with his two previous wins, boosted his 2020 earnings to $608,440 (tops among regional-breds) and helped him achieve millionaire status, as he finished the year with a record of 5-3-1 from 17 career starts and $1,348,995 in total earnings.

An underdog turned star, Knicks Go shows the same heart and tenacity whether he's training or racing.

"He tends to do more than what we want him to, but yeah he's a very forward horse, a very forward-training horse, and he's a very good work horse. His works, his breezes are always really sharp," said Cox. "He gives you a lot of confidence when you leave and take him home for the afternoons because he's a great work horse."

The fourth foal out of multiple stakes winner Kosmo's Buddy, the now 5-year-old was training at Fair Grounds in mid-January as he prepared for the $3 million Pegasus World Cup Invitational-G1 scheduled for Jan. 23 at Gulfstream Park. He was also one of more than 100 horses nominated to the $20 million Saudi Cup Feb. 20 in Saudi Arabia.

"It's something that we're going to keep on our radar," said Cox of the Saudi Cup. "We'll have to get through [the Pegasus] and kind of see how that goes. He's doing well and we expect him to run big in the Pegasus. Like I said, we'll crawl before we

walk, we'll get through this race before we can think about the Saudi Cup."

Knicks Go's plans were up in the air, as the result of the Pegasus World Cup would determine whether he would tackle the Saudi Cup and possibly more races this season, before retiring to stud in South Korea.

"[This pedigree] is what we're looking for for breeding as a stallion prospect," said Jun Park of the KRA after the Breeders' Cup. "We also have a good selection system, which is created by the team at the KRA, and that's why we're buying the colts in the United States. And then I believe this victory will make the Korea horse industry more forward, more globalized, and improve the Korean homebred as well."

Knicks Go led a sweep of the first four spots for Maryland-breds in the poll, voted on by a panel of regional racing media members and racing officials. The leader finished with 132 total points (and nine of a possible 14 first-place votes) to edge Harpers First Ride (111), Sharing (110), Field Pass (95) and New Jersey-bred Horologist. Largent, Laki, Street Lute, Hello Beautiful and Jakarta completed the top 10.

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$2,500 LF Registered PA stallion, BC nom.



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By millionaire and champion-siring REPENT. Immediate family of champion sprinter SMOKE GLACKEN.

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Average earnings per runner, $58,489.

$2,000 LF Registered PA stallion



REPENT–CROWNING TOUCH, by Thunder Gulch

Poseidon's Warrior

Grade 1 winner of $701,147. Ran 4½ fur. in :52.62,
6 fur. in 1:08.18 and tallied SIX Beyers of 100 or higher.

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$3,000 LF Registered PA stallion, BC nom.



SPEIGHTSTOWN–POISED TO POUNCE, by Smarten

Smarty Jones

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Leading sire in the Mid-Atlantic with lifetime AE/runner* of $91,619

*Northern Hemisphere

Sire of 35 stakes winners, including three champions, 14 GSWs.

$3,500 LF Registered PA stallion, BC nom.



ELUSIVE QUALITY–I'LL GET ALONG, by Smile

Uncle Vinny

The only son of champion and leading sire UNCLE MO standing in PA

Winner at 2 of Saratoga's Grade 3 Sanford S and placed third in Saratoga's Grade 1 Hopeful S.

Out of a stakes-winning, multiple stakes-producer, from the hard-knocking solid family of millionaire BLAZING SWORD, with 23 stakes horses in his first three dams.

$2,500 LF Registered PA stallion, BC nom.



UNCLE MO–AREALHOTLOVER, by Untuttable

 by Maggie Kimmitt

Your Out



ELLEN B. PONS

In the autumn of 2000, 2-year-old Your Out was posing for win photos at Mid-Atlantic racetracks. Eugene Ford's homebred filly by Country Life Farm's Allen's Prospect from the Fast Play mare Our Friend Hidayet was brilliant in her freshman season. She followed up her winning Delaware Park debut with three stakes wins at Laurel Park—the Maryland Million Lassie, Heavenly Cause and Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship. The success made her that year's Maryland-bred 2-year-old filly champion.

She made four starts at 3 in 2001, finishing second in the Belair, Jameela and Politely before winning the Twixt Stakes that December. Back at 4 in 2002, she went postward nine times, all in stakes. Wins in Delaware Park's Summer King and Obeah encouraged trainer Graham Motion and Ford to take a shot at that track's marquee event—the $600,000 Delaware Handicap-G3. Your Out lost by a neck to multiple graded stakes winner Summer Colony, who won Saratoga's Personal Ensign-G1 in her next start.

Your Out ventured to Arlington Park in early September and finished third in the Arlington Matron-G3. Back to Pimlico three weeks later, she turned in the only poor performance of her career, finishing sixth in the Maryland Million Ladies. She rallied to finish second in her next start, which would be her last, Laurel Park's Waya Stakes Oct. 26, 2002. Her record of 17-7-6-2 rewarded her connections with earnings of $518,710.

Christy Holden, general manager at Country Life and Merryland farms, remembers that Your Out had a troublesome start as a broodmare. Unable to keep her in foal, Ford had Country Life consign the 7-year-old mare to Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's December mixed sale at Timonium, Md., in 2005. Purchased by John Crane Jr., she topped the sale at $140,000 while in foal to Lion Hearted.

She produced a colt in January. Named The Astekaking, he never raced. Crane pinched no pennies over the next several breeding seasons, sending Your Out to Medaglia d'Oro, Malibu Moon, Forestry and Corinthian. Of her five foals, only New Moon On Monday (a 2009 filly by Malibu Moon) won in this country—a single race for earnings of $15,583.

Ten years after that filly was born, Your Out appeared on the Facebook page of Moore's Equines for Rescue. Owned and operated by husband and wife Brian and Jen Moore in Lebanon, Pa., the website outlines the farm's mission with a message from Jen:

"As most people are aware, my husband buys ALL classes of horses on a daily basis . . . in hopes of finding the slaughter-bound horses and the pipeline horses alternative homes. As we are not a non-profit organization we are offering them to the public for purchase not for 'adoption.' Some of these horses are broke, registered and sound. Blemishes and known issues will be pointed out as we see them but most of the history of these

animals is unknown. We hope to build relationships with those interested in providing these horses with homes."

The horses get hay, water, care and–ultimately–a way out. Brian Moore bought Your Out, then 21, at the New Holland Auction in Pennsylvania. Sue Kenny, office manager for Motion, received a call about the Facebook post, advising her that a former trainee had just been bailed from a kill lot. Kenny sprang into action. She called Motion's wife Anita and the response was quick. "Well, we've got to get her back."

Anita Motion paid Moore's invoice dated March 28, 2019 for "Hip 439, bay Thoroughbred mare aged." The total was $750.32.

Arranging transport and a suitable home were the immediate issues. Kenny reached out to Bev Strauss of MidAtlantic Horse Rescue and asked how to proceed. Strauss advised her to contact Penny Parker, whose name appears on the Moores' list of haulers and quarantine facilities.

"So I called Penny and asked if she could pick her up but said we didn't know where to take her," Kenny said. "She said she had a quarantine farm. Penny took Your Out there, and she took great care of her. She got her feet done, her teeth done. She did the strangles test, which is always a worry, and thankfully it came back negative."

It had been more than 13 years since Your Out passed through the Timonium sales ring for Country Life. Kenny contacted the farm and explained the situation to owner Josh Pons. And didn't stop. Digging deeper, she managed to locate Crane.

"He was absolutely distraught at the news," Kenny said. "He had gone through a divorce and no longer had any horses. As far as he knew, all three mares he had owned were happy on a farm in Pennsylvania."

Pons, on the board of the Thoroughbred Education and Research Foundation with Anita Motion, agreed to give Your Out a home at Merryland, Country Life's nursery and training division in Hydes, Md. Kenny and fellow Motion employee Liz Currey Silva drove the Herringswell truck and trailer to Parker's farm.

"She looked great," Kenny said of the mare. "We took her down to Merryland, she went into her stall, was immediately at home and ignored us."

Holden remembered as well. Your Out joined Merryland's band of retired broodmares in June 2019, fulfilling the role of babysitter to new weanlings. Among her pasturemates are Smash Review, Dance for Jan and As Long as Ittakes. Holden calls it the Million Dollar Field.

"They all earned six figures themselves or produced winners of six figures," she explained.

"Your Out and As Long as Ittakes are total pals," Josh Pons' wife, Ellen, added. "They babysit the fillies together and are fast friends in many ways."

Merryland's Kim Crowell said Your Out doesn't object when foals "eat off her plate, too"–meaning that she doesn't turn a hair if one of her young charges occasionally tries to nurse.

She was less amenable when Holden and Ellen Pons pulled her away from the other old gals to clean her up for photos.

"There was a lot of spinning and screaming, but we did manage to get her glamour shots done," Holden laughed. "She's 23, but that's the Allen's Prospect in her. They all had that fire in them." ✹


MAGGIE KIMMITT

All we got, just in time

Underdog sports teams headed to the playoffs, a big tournament or some important game will frequently proclaim, "We all we got." And follow up with, "We all we need."

Well, for racing, the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2020 is all we got. We'll find out if it's all we need.

The federal legislation passed the House of Representatives in September, cleared the Senate in December after Majority Leader Mitch McConnell signed on, and became law when President Donald Trump signed it as part of a massive legislative package that addressed a myriad of other areas of far more importance to the country.

But here we are. Commencing July 1, 2022, horse racing in the United States will be governed under standards created by the new Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (aside, I'm still hung up on horseracing as one word but that's another issue) which will work with the United States Anti-Doping Agency and the Federal Trade Commission.

So now what? I tried to ask that question for the news feature article in this magazine. I got some detail, plenty of generalities, some written statements from The Jockey Club's attorney, referrals to a couple websites (one with a flow chart) and a lot of hope.

People–well, most people I guess–in racing hope the HISA succeeds. They hope it brings the stability the sport needs. They hope it convinces the public that racing does right by the horses. They hope it matters. They hope it translates to uniform national medication rules, meaningful penalties for violators, safety standards, better aftercare protocols, robust out-of-competition testing, safer races and longer careers for horses. From all of that, those same people hope the HISA helps American racing produce more wagering handle, higher purses and a better international reputation.

You for it or against it? Ever since the thought of federal intervention came to be, that question got asked from Saratoga to Sunray Downs, Penn National to Pompano, Lexington to Laurel. Momentum started as far back as 2012 with the creation of the Water Hay Oats Alliance and gained support from a long list of entities and individuals. The Humane Society of the United States backed the efforts. The Jockey Club became an important driver of the message. A House bill was created by New York's Paul Tonko and Kentucky's Andy Barr in 2017.

Even with that support, federal legislation looked like a longshot to pass. Racing couldn't agree on a way forward within its own ranks. How could it convince politicians and others from the outside to put in the work? Many in racing expressed concern over the effort's intentions. They pointed to racing's slow drift toward uniformity as a sign of progress. Somewhere, the use of the anti-bleeding medication Lasix became part of the discussion.

It all sounded pretty familiar. Even with the best of intentions and signs of incremental progress, racing has tried–and failed–at national policy for decades. And then everything changed.

At Santa Anita Park in California, horses died on the racetrack at an alarming rate in 2018 and 2019. In early 2020, prominent trainers Jorge Navarro and Jason Servis were swept up in an FBI investigation and indicted on various charges tied to performance-enhancing drugs given to racehorses. A March 2020 editorial in *The Washington Post* of all places–headlined "Horse racing has outlived its time"–suggested that racing could be abolished.

Piled on top of all that, racing went through perhaps its strangest season due to the Covid-19 pandemic with tracks racing without spectators, a delayed Triple Crown season, questions about casino purse subsidies, substantial decreases in races and purses (though fairly steady handle figures), positive drug tests for horses trained by the sport's most visible trainer Bob Baffert (a bill supporter), disturbing data from the Navarro/Servis horses about clenbuterol usage and so on.

A Kentucky Senator, McConnell said the *Post* piece spurred him to get involved though a re-election challenge probably didn't hurt. Like McConnell, racing entities threw more support at the bill. And then it passed. Packaged with a slew of other legislative actions that had nothing to do with racing, the HISA briefly sat in limbo as Trump threatened a veto while challenging the results of November's presidential election but became law just before the end of the year.

In this space, I have long advocated for uniform medication rules and other policies in the HISA but I can't say I was an early supporter. The Lasix issue hung there. Still does. Same with the thought that the new law might breed more of the same, or simply another layer of the same. Will trainers be able to challenge penalties the way they do now, and delay them for years? Will suspensions have real teeth? Will owners be held accountable for their decisions to use certain trainers?

Like many, I've got questions. But, also like many, I'm tired of the status quo.

To the individuals and groups that worked on this, congratulations. To those same individuals and groups, get this right. Because you're all we got.

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State of Play

West Virginia stallions cover all angles as breeding season arrives

By Joe Clancy

You might as well start at the beginning. A conversation about West Virginia-based stallions starts with Fiber Sonde.

The 16-year-old will stand his 13th season at John McKee and Cyndy O'Bannon's Beau Ridge Farm in Kearneysville, and will no doubt be in demand again given that he led pretty much every statistical category in 2020 and held his own in the region and beyond with 53 individual winners from 96 starters. The half-brother to $90,000 Kentucky stallion Speightstown will stand for $1,000. McKee knows that's a bargain, but also manages his stallion's book carefully.

"I've had people who were sending mares to me ask me about raising his fee," said McKee. "I don't see a need as long as they're going to run at Charles Town. We want people who are going to run at Charles Town and people who have been breeding with us over the years to be able to send their mares to him. It takes some pressure off him, gets mares in foal and it works."

The locals-only plan ensures that Fiber Sonde's offspring race in West Virginia, earn awards for their owners and breeders, and contribute stallion awards to Beau Ridge. The plan has worked thus far, as the gray stallion passed $14 million in lifetime earnings since becoming a stallion in 2008. Scored by percentage of stakes winners from runners, he led the nation in 2020 at 8.3 percent. McKee and O'Bannon paid $8,000 for the unraced colt as a 2-year-old at Keeneland November in 2007. The stallion prospect stayed unraced, but has produced such standouts as Runnin'toluvya, Late Night Pow Wow, Moonlit Song, Hidden Canyon, Penguin Power, Dr. Feelgood and a host of others.

McKee marvels at the horse's production.

"I only bred Fiber Sonde to a few mares the first year or two because I didn't want to have a farm full of slow horses," he said with a laugh. Fiber Sonde's first crop, foaled in 2009, included six runners in 2011. Four won that year.

"From then on I'm a believer," McKee said. "He got a lot more mares after that. I've had people tell me he's the best stallion to ever stand in West Virginia. It's not because it's my horse, but you could breed him to a fence post and still come out with a horse that could run."

Compared to a 60-foal crop seven years ago, Fiber Sonde's book will be limited so the fence posts are out. He's as fertile as ever, but his sperm aren't as mobile. Veterinarians at Virginia's Equine Reproductive Concepts and Rood and Riddle in Kentucky helped McKee craft a plan where Fiber Sonde will breed once a day with the selection based on which mare is closest to ovulation. McKee credited the veterinarians with prescribing a semen extender treatment as well.

"He got a reputation for being half-sterile or something, but that wasn't it," McKee said. "The first 12 we bred three years ago came up empty. That's why we took him and started working on this with the clinics. It made a difference that year and every year since then. It turned him around, we just can't breed but one mare a day."

Second-season stallions Redirect and Spiritus Invictus also call Beau Ridge home. They're not Fiber Sonde, not yet anyway, but they'll get a chance. A son of Speightstown, Redirect never raced but his female family includes sires Alternation, Peaks and Valleys and Broken Vow. The $15,000 Keeneland November 2019 purchase is out of multiple stakes winner Alternate. Spiritus Invictus is by War Front, whose sons The Factor, Summer Front and others have made impacts as stallions. The $6,500 buy at Keeneland November in 2019 lost all three starts for breeder G. Watts Humphrey, but is out of Grade 1 winner Centre Court.

McKee loves the pedigrees and – like all stallion owners – has high hopes.

"School's still out on them whether it's good or bad," he said. "There are no guarantees in this business. They're well-bred, out of nice mares. They will have foals this



West Virginia's dean of stallions Fiber Sonde jumps into another breeding season at Beau Ridge Farm.

year. That's the breeding business. They breed this year, you get a foal the next year if you're lucky enough and then two years later you find out if they can run or not."

Building Blocks

Two years ago, Ronney and Nicole Brown brought Florida stallion Exclusive Quality to their newly purchased Pellinor Lane Farm in Charles Town in hopes of establishing a place in the state's breeding industry.

And then everything went wrong. Exclusive Quality was injured in the breeding shed, recovered well enough to return to breeding but died of a hemorrhage from the original injury.

A dozen foals were born last year, but it could have been 25 or so. Undaunted, the Browns added Bullsbay last year, and he bred 30 mares. The Grade 1 winner returns, and is joined by first-year stallion Vorticity, a son of Distorted Humor. Racing for Matt Schera and the Maryland-based Chuck Lawrence, Vorticity won four races and earned $347,040 while placing in three graded stakes. He is out of Tar Heel Mom (by Flatter), a winner of eight stakes, three graded, and earnings of $832,892.

Brown connected with Vorticity (who made three starts in 2020) via agent Chris Gracie, and will support the stallion with part of a 30-strong broodmare band.

"We just wanted to broaden what we do," Brown said of adding stallions to his successful training operation. "The West Virginia breeding program is pretty decent, it's where a lower-cost horse can do well. It's a good program and we're going to try to take advantage of it."

Vorticity, whose stud fee will be $1,500 ($1,000 for West Virginia mares), settled right into life at Pellinor Lane–a 63-acre spot with 16 stalls, two foaling stalls, a shedrow-type barn and facilities for layups and working with young horses.

"He's a real cool horse to be around," Brown said. "He doesn't bite or kick or try to jump on you. We do it all ourselves so that's a plus. He's got a lot of class."

Brown enjoyed another solid year as a trainer at Charles Town, even if it was delayed and nearly upended by Covid-19 as the track suspended racing for two months.

"It was a trying year, being down two months," he said, "It took my horses two months to get back to feel like running



LAURA RUSSMAN

Young stallions Aldrin (top) and Golden Years stand at O'Sullivan Farms.



JOHN FUNKHOUSER

again. It seemed like it knocked us out for four months and everything seemed to take a little longer to get back into. We turned 21 horses out just to give them a rest. Then it was 'We're running next week.' The horses didn't lose much [fitness], it just set us back a little bit and then they started coming around. She Figures [who won the Roger Ramey Distaff on Breeders Classics night] was definitely the highlight."

Brother Act, Part Two

Everybody knows the success of Speightstown's brother Fiber Sonde, but a newer kid looks to join the act at O'Sullivan Farms in Charles Town. Aldrin, a half-brother to stallion superstar Tapit, packs loads of potential even if his career started slowly in 2018. He emerged from his first cover with an injury. It was minor, but he missed the breeding season while recovering.

The next year, O'Sullivan quietly offered him as an option to clients. He got three early mares in foal, and ultimately bred enough to get a first crop of 20 or so yearlings of 2021. Last year, Aldrin bred 31 mares and O'Sullivan's John Funkhouser is encouraged.

Bred by Barouche Stud, Aldrin sold for $1 million as a 2-year-old in 2014, and raced 14 times—winning once—while crossing through the barns of Chad Brown and Peter Miller. Eased in his final start at Santa Anita in 2017, the son of Malibu Moon is one of just three colts produced by Tap Your Heels. Tapit you know. The other, 5-year-old Kidtapit, is still in training. What's more, Aldrin and Tapit are both by sons of A.P. Indy.

"It's as good a family as there is in the Mid-Atlantic," Funkhouser said of the pedigree. "It's a sire-producing family because it's not just Tapit. It's Rubiano, Relaunch and some others. He wasn't the best racehorse, but he showed some promise and there were some things that kept him from doing more."

At Keeneland, where he topped the sale, Aldrin worked a furlong in $9\frac{4}{5}$ seconds. He raced three times as a juvenile, just twice as a 3-year-old and didn't graduate the maiden ranks until March of his 4-year-old season. Since his racing career ended, Aldrin has done nothing but improve according to Funkhouser.

"He looks like a completely different horse now," he said. "He's very intelligent. He loves me, I don't even have to put a chain around his nose to lead him. Other people, he's not so sure about, but that's just him. He's an interesting horse and we're excited about him."

Eight deep, the O'Sullivan stud barn also includes relative newcomer Golden Years. Bred by the farm and sold for $120,000 as a yearling, the 9-year-old won three starts as a juvenile, two stakes, and had connections Ellen Charles and Rodney Jenkins thinking Kentucky Derby until he was injured in his only start the following season.

The son of Not For Love joined the stud barn at his birthplace in 2017, and



LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Taylor Mountain Farm's stallion roster includes 2020 freshman sire Juba, with four stakes horses in his first crop.

promptly injured his hock after breeding 16 mares. His first crop included two starters—Mady Rose and Natural Attraction—who both won. Golden Years bred nearly 100 mares the next three years, a good sign to Funkhouser.

"People love the way his offspring look," he said. "I had the two in training and people wanted to breed to him because they liked my horses. He puts leg under his horses and has gotten mares even though he hasn't had many runners."

O'Sullivan will stay busy this season thanks to those two stallions, plus Limehouse, Capo Bastone, Gattopardo, Our Entourage and Declan's Warrior (a sleeper as Funkhouser put it). The farm was home to 50 pregnant mares in early January, with another 25 to ship in for clients, even if it was early to get a line on the traffic to the stallions.

"It's always hard to gauge how stallions are going to do coming into a new year until it's about halfway through," he said of breeding season. "When you're dealing with regional stallions, most breeders don't make up their minds until they see babies on the ground. They can take their time because none of our stallions in the region are fully booked. It's not like Kentucky, where there's real demand for horses and they can get fully booked.

"We had a good year [in 2020] all things considered. Our state's breeding program is one of the best in the country and we're always asking the same question—how do we improve it?"

West Virginia Notes

Though leading sire Windsor Castle died before the 2020 breeding season began, the Casey family's Taylor Mountain Farm began the process of finding an heir apparent with newcomer Juba.

The son of Tapit had his first runners in 2020 and came up with five winners from just 10 starters. The small but mighty group included four stakes horses led by stakes winner and $52,570 earner Hopping Henry. The gray (going on white) Juba raced on the big stages of New York and Florida for Centennial Farms and trainer Jimmy Jerkens—winning three times. Juba's dam Adoradancer (by Danzig Connection) is a half-sister to former Taylor Mountain stallion Luftikus.

In addition, the Taylor Mountain roster includes Candygram (whose first foals arrive this year) and veteran stallion Denis of Cork (whose progeny have earned more than $4.4 million).



KATHERINE TURNBULL

Fiber Sonde and Hank—holy cow

There's no doubting a Thoroughbred stallion's importance, but behind all the mares and stud fees and nicking patterns there's still a horse as owner John McKee proved with leading West Virginia stallion Fiber Sonde.

It started with a simple question. So what's his life like around the farm?

"Let me tell you another story . . ." McKee said with a laugh, and away he went on what really ought to be a children's book or a Disney movie.

"We have cattle around here too and we had a cow that had a calf. Well, the cow died and we raised the calf on the bottle for a while. When he got big enough, we put him in a real small paddock. Fiber Sonde, off breeding season, has the end stall of the foaling barn and a paddock and he just runs in and out all day. He does whatever he does. Well, I guess the calf got to liking Fiber Sonde and they would stand at the fence looking at each other. If that calf was out, that's where Fiber Sonde was in his paddock. Then that calf got over with him in his paddock and they became great, big buddies. They ate out of the same feed trough. It's absolutely crazy."

The calf is named Hank, and nobody is sure whether he thinks he's a horse or Fiber Sonde is pretending to be a gentle bull, but here they are.

"We had to move the calf eventually to keep him from being in there with Fiber Sonde. He never kicked that calf, never did anything, but it made you worry. Even today, I moved the calf in with another cow, they still come up to the fence together. They're still buddies. He's an amazing horse. He's an unusual stallion, that's for sure, not just his produce but his mannerisms. What a neat horse."

Federal Future

Racing must learn to live with new law

By Joe Clancy



First, it's 65 pages. Second, it's full of formal, legal and otherwise long-winded language that will test even an English teacher's inner voice, but United States Senate Bill 4547–the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2020–brings vast change to the country's racing industry.

Or it will. Signed into law in late December, the act will take effect July 1, 2022, with some potential early rollout of certain items.

The act creates the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority, a not-for-profit corporation with the mission of establishing uniform safety standards for racing, while improving the safety and welfare of participating horses and humans. That simple purpose statement belies a big challenge, one in the works since 2012 if not before by groups inside and outside the industry. The law was built on a similar bill put forth in the House of Representatives in 2015, 2017 and 2019, but gained more support by adding safety and welfare responsibilities to the integrity piece, picked up a key sponsor in Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky last summer and added more backing within the industry. The bill passed the House and the Senate and went to President Donald Trump as part of a massive end-of-the-year spending bill that included coronavirus economic relief, military pay raises and more.

So now what?

Simply put, work. The authority took its first steps with the creation of a nominating committee tasked with selecting members of an overall board of directors and two standing committees–Anti-doping and Medication Control and Racetrack Safety. Co-chaired by former Major League Baseball executive Len Coleman and University of Kentucky dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Dr. Nancy Cox, the nominating committee also includes past president of the United States Tennis Association Katrina Adams, former president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners Dr. Jerry Black, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Marine Corps commandant Gen. Joseph Dunford, former Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating, and former president of NBC Sports Ken Schanzer.

The board itself will include nine members–five from outside the equine industry and four representing the industry's various constituencies–while the committees will have seven members each.

"The nominating committee has asked for recommendations through written requests, ads, and word of mouth within and outside of the equine industry," said Jockey Club general counsel Marc Summers via written response. "The board and committees will comprise individuals from outside the equine industry and persons with Thoroughbred industry experience and expertise. The authority will be required to maintain robust conflicts-of-interest requirements for all board members and employees."

Once the board, committees and staff are in place, the authority will start the steps of creating medication and safety programs, engaging the United States Anti-Doping Agency (responsible for anti-doping in U.S. Olympic sports among others) for anti-doping and medication control.



The rules must be approved by the Federal Trade Commission, after public comment and then the authority will "work with USADA to formalize the nationwide anti-doping and medication control system," according to Summers.

Despite its national scope and seemingly new direction, the program is built on existing standards in place in racing from various entities including the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities, World Anti-Doping Agency and the Association of Racing Commissioners International.

In addition, the new law does not eliminate the need for state racing commissions.

"Pursuant to the preemption provision in the legislation, racing in all states will automatically be subject to the rules and regulations promulgated by the authority, and the authority, along with USADA, will have the right to enforce compliance," said Summers. "Notably, the authority and USADA may enter into agreements with state racing commissions for services consistent with the enforcement of the racetrack safety program, services consistent with the enforcement of the anti-doping and medication control program, and to monitor and enforce racetrack compliance with the standards developed by the authority."

Racing commissions will also be responsible for areas beyond the scope of the authority, such as licensing and racing rules.

Mid-Atlantic impact

As big as the HISA reform is, the Mid-Atlantic ought to be well-prepared for much of the change thanks to regional cooperation among the racing states with respect to medication policy and other





Maryland Racing Commission executive director Mike Hopkins (left), veterinarian Dr. Kathy Anderson, and Alan Foreman, CEO of the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, all agree that thanks to the Mid-Atlantic Strategic Plan to Reduce Equine Fatalities and other regional actions, much of the policy set forth in the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act is already in play in the region.

safety/welfare standards agreed upon in the Mid-Atlantic Strategic Plan to Reduce Equine Fatalities.

"The things we've done, I'm not so sure that what the authority does is going to be too far astray from what we've already put in place," said Mike Hopkins, executive director of the Maryland Racing Commission. "They're all best practices. If there's something that isn't, I've got no problem fixing stuff. The whole point is to make it better."

Maryland-based veterinarian Dr. Kathy Anderson agreed, and paid credit to the region's approach to cooperative medication and safety policies.

"The Mid-Atlantic has been very cohesive as a region and I think we have really tried to be on the front end of improving safety for racing as well as integrity," she said. "They're pretty much the same goal. If you improve integrity, you're going to improve safety and if you improve safety you're going to improve integrity. That's why we've had, for 10 years or more, these Mid-Atlantic stakeholder meetings with horsemen, racing officials, racetrack owners and management involved."

Alan Foreman, CEO of the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, targeted regional uniformity years ago and made enough progress to have the concept get pitched nationally.

"We were doing the Mid-Atlantic thing, we had had the task force report in New York, the Mid-Atlantic was moving to do things collectively and some of the industry organizations grabbed on and said we should do it nationally," Foreman said. "That's how the Mid-Atlantic uniform program became the national uniform program. We started the multiple points system [for trainer violations], we required our laboratories to get accredited, which meant everybody in the country was going to get their laboratories accredited. We were talking about third-party Lasix, now everybody's doing third-party Lasix."

There's more, but the point is the region led much of the movement toward uniformity even if that progress was voluntary and not necessarily enforced by an overall regulatory body. Eventually, some of that progress stalled as some states and racetracks adjusted recommendations or didn't complete the full changes in the uniformity plans. Racing's diverse regulatory agencies left gaps in the best intentions.

"The reality was there were jurisdictions that were just not willing to play ball, that were dragging their feet," Foreman said. "Others were very slow to make changes. For every person that was saying you have a roadmap for uniformity, there were two others saying you can't mandate it, it's all voluntary and if you can't mandate it then what good is it?"

Foreman and many in racing were actually against some of the early drafts of legislative moves (the Horse Racing Integrity Acts of 2017 and 2019, for example). The proposals didn't go far enough, left out key pieces such as aftercare and offered no compromise on the race-day use of Lasix. Of course, those early efforts came before some of the developments of the last few years–the spike in equine deaths at Santa Anita Park, the federal charges against prominent trainers Jorge Navarro and Jason Servis and high-profile medication positives in major races.

"People were just getting frustrated that the current course couldn't continue if the industry was going to survive," Foreman said. "The question became what is wrong with the integrity act? Could it get fixed? Is there a willingness to look at what needs to get done in order to make it work?"

Those questions spurred more discussions among industry leaders including The Jockey Club, the NTRA and horsemen's groups, the creation of the Thoroughbred Safety Coalition (founded by Breeders' Cup, Churchill Downs, Del Mar, Keeneland, the New York Racing Association and The Stronach Group) in 2019 and an expansion of the original integrity act to include provisions for safety and welfare. In addition, USADA's role was clarified, the authority structure was created and what became the final Senate bill began to take shape.

Like Foreman, Anderson came to be in favor of the 2020 version of the legislation because of those changes and more. She was opposed to the original legislation, and testified before Congress about it in January 2020.

"I believed it was not going to improve the safety of racehorses," she said of the House bill. "It was a kneejerk medication document that really didn't address a lot of our underlying issues, and it also did not have the governance nor the financial structure to be successful. The AAEP and a number of stakeholders have gotten behind the HISA because it does

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address several pillars–one being uniformity, which is without a doubt the most important piece, the safety is too but we back into that through uniformity and [the new legislation] actually has identified a subcommittee for that."

Foreman called safety a key component of the new law. Making it a priority changed the model from something that simply regulated doping and penalized bad actors to a plan that racing could use as a selling point, as a way to show critics that safety was a big part of the equation.

Locally, the various pieces of the Mid-Atlantic Strategic Plan have shown a decrease in racetrack fatalities–again providing a road map of sorts for the national rollout.

"We expanded the Horseracing Integrity Act to include safety standards and welfare standards, the kind of things that are in the Mid-Atlantic Strategic Plan and the Thoroughbred Safety Coalition work that should be mandated across the country," said Foreman. "The current NTRA accreditation program is voluntary. Voluntary wasn't going to work. I've got no problems with standardizing medication rules, but if the concern is the public concern of horses dying on the racetrack then you needed to expand the bill to include safety and welfare standards. You see that in the bill now. They built that out."

Thoroughbred owner and breeder Tom Rooney considers the new law from a variety of angles. He is on the Maryland Horse Breeders Association board. He represented Florida in the U.S. House of Representatives and his family owns the Pittsburgh Steelers NFL team (the "league" model many have used as an example for racing).

"Racing has an opportunity with this board–to have a central governing body that almost acts like a commissioner's office, that has the ability to impose sanctions if there are violations so you don't have situations where Maryland is different from Pennsylvania, which is different from Florida and so on," Rooney said. "One of the goals of this act is for people outside of our industry to look at us and not think there's some corruption going on. Can we at least get to the point where we point to this board and say, 'We do have a governing body.'?"

As Rooney put it, racing should be able to point to regulations that ensure integrity and safety and be able to tell the public that the industry is doing its best for horses.

"I don't think we had that before," he said. "I think it's a good opportunity."

> "One of the goals of this act is for people outside of our industry to look at us and not think there's some corruption going on. Can we at least get to the point where we point to this board and say, 'We do have a governing body.'?"
>
> Owner/breeder Tom Rooney, former U.S. congressman

Looking, focusing ahead

The next few months will see the creation of the board and standing committees, then the various steps toward establishing rules for doping, permitted medications, penalties and so on.

Anderson and others stressed the importance of out-of-competition testing, but the task list is long. The use of Lasix, once (and potentially still) a major hurdle to clear, will need to be worked out beyond a three-year compromise window allowing its use in non-stakes races and in horses ages 3 and up.

Funding mechanisms will have to be created. The roles of state racing commissions must be solidified. Adjudication and discipline structures need to be put in place. How can laboratories be further standardized? To ensure nationwide adaptation, new rules will have to go through the Federal Trade Commission–adding another new wrinkle.

Call the new law the scaffolding (Anderson's word). The trusses, rafters, joists, studs, walls, floors will come in time.

"I believe they have all the pieces in place to get there, but we have to let the process unfold," the veterinarian said. "A good nominating committee, good governance, good standing committees–if they can get them together with quality individuals in place and they will work together, then we can get there."

As usual, money will matter. All of this comes with increased costs.

"They're going to have to figure out efficiencies and if they start to impose fees on the industry that are onerous on the tracks or the industry otherwise, they'll do harm rather than good in the long term," said Foreman. "You've got to roll up your sleeves and try not to cause economic harm, but still accomplish what you want from an integrity standpoint."

Finally, the HISA is about survival. Greyhound racing in the United States is down to four tracks in three states–West Virginia, Arkansas and Iowa–due in large part to pressure from animal-rights groups. Without proper oversight, and improved integrity and safety efforts, horse racing could be the next target. Though horse racing didn't choose state-by-state regulation (and its inherent inconsistencies), that's always been the model. Changing it won't be easy.

"I don't have a better answer," Foreman said. "Racing has tried to find a better answer. I know people said be careful what you wish for but if they continued to do what they were doing, other than big event days or whatever, we'd be banished to the wilderness. You can just see it. People don't understand why we're able to do it this way."

Finally, all this effort–the legislation, the lobbying, the committees, the financing, the research, the politics, the various initialed organizations, all of it–is for one reason. The horses, and their health, safety and welfare.

"That needs to be your starting point, the horse," Anderson said. "From there, get into the rest of it. The horse is what matters. The breeding business, the sales business, the racing business and back to the breeding business or to alternative careers–all of it is contingent upon the safety of the racehorse." ✸

Taylor Mountain Stallions 2021

Candygram

STAKES-PLACED SON OF CANDY RIDE (ARG)

Three-time New York allowance winner of $188,210. Broke his maiden at Belmont Park going 1 1/16 miles, won an Aqueduct allowance race by 5½ lengths going 1 1/8 miles and came right back to win by another 5½ lengths at Belmont going 1 mile (110 Equibase Speed Figure). Then came right back to place second in Belmont's $100,000 State Dinner S (109 Equibase Speed Figure). Out of a stakes-winning half-sister to the dam of G2 **MR. MISUNDERSTOOD** ($967,176), from the immediate family of G2 **MIDDLESEX DRIVE** ($746,819).



Candy Ride (Arg)–Church Camp, Forest Camp

$1,500 LFSN; special consideration

Denis of Cork

STAKES-SIRING SON OF HARLAN'S HOLIDAY

TWELVE stakes horses in first five crops include **B'S WILD CORK** ($255,202), **ROMANTIC CORK** ($242,776), **RETURN TO DENIS** ($216,308), **SCOTTISH DENIS** ($205,681), **I NEED YOU** ($175,546), **SPRING LASS,** etc.

A G3 winner of $613,252, **twice classic-placed** with a second in G1 Belmont S and a third in G1 Kentucky Derby. From the family of classic winner **DA' TARA**, G1 **PRIVATE PERSUASION**, etc.



Harlan's Holiday–Unbridled Girl, by Unbridled

$750 LFSN

Juba

SON OF TAPIT FROM A SIRE FAMILY

Sire of FOUR stakes horses in his first crop of 2YOs: **HOPPING HENRY, Juba Train, Just Gets Better** and **Juba Did It**. New York allowance-winning son of leading sire **TAPIT,** sire of leading sires **TAPIZAR, CONSTITUTION, TONALIST, TAPITURE**, etc. Half-brother to G2 winner **SAINT ANDDAN** ($423,170). Stakes-placed dam a half-sister to track record-setter and top WV sire **LUFTIKUS, DIVERSA, SENSITIVITY**, and sister to **Rare Opportunity** (multiple graded stakes producer). Third dam multiple G1 winner and multiple stakes producer **SABIN.**



Tapit–Adoradancer, by Danzig Connection

$1,500 LFSN; special consideration



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Iron Horse

Legend of Bobby G continues to grow with 17 more starts (6 wins) in 2020

BY TOM LAW. PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM MCCUE



Bobby G had six wins in Maryland in 2020, five of them at Laurel Park.

Jonathan Maldonado knew Bobby G. The only problem was so did many others by the time the Awesome Again gelding showed up in the paddock before the final race of the Feb. 2, 2019, card at Laurel Park.

He hadn't yet run on the Maryland circuit when members of Jeremiah Englehart's team led him around the ring before a $5,000 claimer in the fading daylight, but plenty seemed clear to Maldonado looking at Bobby G's past performances. Bobby G cost $300,000 as a 2-year-old, had broken his maiden in Southern California and was out of a Maryland-bred mare whose biggest successes came on Mid-Atlantic tracks in 2007.

"I always followed the pedigree and saw that he cost a lot of money," said Maldonado, a trainer on the Maryland circuit since 2010. "This is what I thought–'He cost $300,000, if I spend $5,000 and it doesn't go the right way, I can't be mad because they already paid $300,000 for him.'

"I knew the momma, too. Every time she ran, she was amazing and horses from her were winners. I looked at him in the paddock, he looked good, so I dropped the slip. That was for me as the owner, too."

The only problem, again, Maldonado wasn't alone. A handful of other horsemen saw the same things in black and white and in the flesh and dropped claim slips. Jose Corrales, representing David Mohan's Mohan Stable, won the shake after Bobby G ran to his 4-5 odds and won by 13½ lengths.

Bobby G's improbable and durable story ascends from there. He won three of his first four starts for Corrales and Mohan, earning a spot in the starting gate for the Pimlico Special-G3 that spring and eventually running 17 times for his new connections before the year ended with seven victories.

Along with the Pimlico Special–where he finished 12th of 13 as one of the longest prices on the board at 65-1–Bobby G finished third in the Richard W. Small Stakes at Laurel and fifth as the favorite in the Claiming Crown Iron Horse Stakes at Gulfstream Park. He ended 2019 ranked eighth in North America by wins with eight.

The 2020 season–which featured a brief shutdown of racing in Maryland due to the Covid-19 pandemic–produced more of the same. Bobby G won a $43,260 allowance at a mile off just a 13-day break in his second start of the year before adding a starter race a month and two starts later at 6½ furlongs. Bobby G finished third in a $56,385 allowance in mid-March just before the pandemic shuttered racing, then returned off a more than two-month freshening to win a 1 1/16-mile starter race going two turns on the grass May 30.

Then Maldonado finally got his chance. Mohan sent Bobby G to the trainer shortly after that victory and provided a significant spark to the barn.

"They did a pretty good job, both [Mohan] and Jose Corrales. I have to give him credit, Jose Corrales, what he did with this horse was something amazing, won a bunch of races," Maldonado said. "For some reason they split and sent the horse to me. When I got the horse, I was happy because anybody wants to train this horse."

Bobby G didn't return to his usual winning ways early for Maldonado, at least not in his first six starts, but he made those half-dozen runs in a three-month span to continue his run of durability.

"When I ran him the first time he ran big for me, it was a really powerful two-other-than, it was a tough race," Maldonado said of a June 19 optional at Laurel. "He got beat a nose but after that he was running OK, but not running like I expected. I was frustrated, you know? When you have a horse like that and he's not winning, and he came from winning with the other trainer, you want to do good with the horse. So I made some changes on the horse and he started to run like I expected, starting to win races and do good for me."

The changes worked and Bobby G won three in a row–a starter allowance at Pimlico that provided an automatic bid in the Claiming Crown Iron Horse and two

starter optionals at Laurel–in October and November. At the Claiming Crown at Gulfstream Park for the second consecutive year, Bobby G finished second, beaten a nose after an adventurous trip where he checked multiple times under Irad Ortiz Jr.

"You need to watch the replay–it was closer than we thought," Maldonado said. "He broke a little bit slow out of the gate. Irad used him a little bit at the beginning but they were flying in front. He doesn't have that speed, to be able to be close to those horses. Eventually he moved up, but didn't have the space to go through. He checked like two, three times. When they turned for home, at the quarter pole he checked again. I thought he was done, he's going to run badly.

"I was disappointed. I sent the horse down there like two, three weeks out. The weather, it was cold here, warm there, and I wanted the horse to have the best shot possible. And I went with the horse. I was mad, not with the jockey, just with the situation. He couldn't ride the horse like he wanted. He was flying at the end, after only beating one horse when they turned for home. I knew he was going really good, but I didn't expect he'd run that big after all those problems."



Four of Harper's First Ride's seven 2020 wins at Maryland tracks were in stakes, the most recent in Laurel Park's Native Dancer in December.

The appropriately named Iron Horse was Bobby G's 16th start of the year and he ran once more after that, eight days later in a starter optional that Maldonado admitted was once too much.

"He was eligible to run for the nickel starters and that was the last one he could run from now on, that's why we ran him back," he said. "He didn't run good but now he's training back."

Maldonado hoped to run Bobby G in late January.

Whether the now 8-year-old gelding out of 2007 Delaware Oaks-G2 and Maryland Million Oaks winner Moon Catcher racks up as many starts and earnings–$301,670 in 2019 and 2020–will be a tall order with limited opportunities in starter races since he hasn't run for a tag since being claimed.

Maldonado, and the gelding's legion of fans in Maryland and the region, aren't about to count him out.

"He loves to train, loves to go to the track. When he sees the track, you can see it in his eyes," Maldonado said. "You can put any exercise rider on him. You don't have to mention the name, when they come back they're like, 'Jonathan, who is this horse?' I ask them, why, and they say, 'This horse is a Cadillac. This horse is amazing.'

"Other people, even owners that don't have horses with me, they're the same way. They come to my barn to give him candy. That's how special he is at Laurel. People around, maintenance, people that work for other departments, they ask me 'Jonathan, can I stop by the barn to give him candy, take pictures of the horse.' He's a cool horse, anybody can go and touch him, he's really nice, doesn't bite. He's always happy and he's a nice-looking horse, too."

Bred in Kentucky by Liberty Road Stables, Bobby G started his career with trainer Doug O'Neill in California and later moved to Graham Motion and Englehart while owned in partnership by Newport Stables and Sheep Pond Partners.

The bay gelding's female family ought to be familiar to the region. Bred by Albert and Randy Cohen and trainer Ferris Allen, dam Moon Catcher (a daughter of Malibu Moon and the Smarten mare Smartster) was named Maryland-bred champion 3-year-old filly after winning six races–three stakes–for trainer Tim Ritchey in 2007 before selling for $1.35 million in 2008 and completing her career for Marsha Naify and trainer Christophe Clement. As a broodmare, she has produced three other minor winners. Bred in Maryland by Ryehill Farm, Moon Catcher's dam Smartster won seven races for Allen and also produced 11-time winner Smarten Up, seven-time winner Saltster and four-time winner Badsmart.

NOTES: Bobby G's six wins in Maryland placed him second for the year at the track behind Pimlico Special winner Harpers First Ride and Galerio, who won seven apiece. Harpers First Ride, a Maryland-bred son of Paynter bred by Sagamore Farm and raced by MCA Racing Stable, won four stakes last season and helped propel his trainer to the top of the standings. Claudio Gonzalez won 99 races at Laurel and racked up purses of $3,472,127 to lead both categories. Robert Bone, one of Gonzalez's primary clients, led the owners with 30 wins from 100 starts and purses of $977,372. Trevor McCarthy won a tight race for leading rider at Laurel in 2020, winning 99 races to Jevian Toledo's 95. McCarthy also topped the earnings list with purses of $3,780,899 with Toledo second at $3,553,152 . . . Laurel's 2021 winter meeting features 24 stakes worth $2.65 million in purses, including the Feb. 13 Winter Sprintfest topped by the $250,000 Runhappy Barbara Fritchie Stakes-G3 for fillies and mares and $250,000 General's Stakes-G3 (formerly the General George) for older horses.

Six Pack

Star filly Salsita Roja stays perfect in six starts for Whylie, Emerald Racing

BY TOM LAW. PHOTOGRAPHS BY EQUI-PHOTO, INC.



Salsita Roja got a break after posting a perfect 6-for-6 in 2020, all at Parx, to top the leaders list.

More than two months remained in 2020 and Herold Whylie found himself in a bit of a quandary over what to do with his filly Salsita Roja.

"I just could not find the right spot for her," Whylie said of the now 5-year-old daughter of Two Step Salsa who racked up a win streak by mid-October that put her on top of the Parx Racing horses by wins. "She was trying to kill herself, raring to go."

Whylie, a native of Jamaica who immigrated to the U.S. as a youngster with his family in 1977 and a veteran of the Bensalem backstretch for more than two decades, wanted to keep Salsita Roja in starter allowance races going short. She'd won four in a row at that level after racing resumed following a shutdown for Covid-19 to stay unbeaten on the year and stretch her win streak to six.

"I didn't want to run her in a spot where I'd get her beat, but they just wouldn't put up the races," Whylie said.

Seemingly out of options and thinking ahead to 2021, Whylie pulled the plug.

"I finally just said, 'She's done me right this year, I've won six in a row with her, I'm going to give her some time off,'" he said. "That's what I did, I gave her some well-needed time off. She had run hard. Not only that, she's a filly that trains very hard. She's like a big, strong colt even though she's a little filly."

A little filly with a big resume and an even bigger following at Parx after her 2020 campaign.

Salsita Roja banked $78,900 last year, her first two wins coming when risked for a tag–for $7,500 Jan. 11 at 5½ furlongs and for $12,500 Feb. 10 at 6 furlongs. Parx didn't run for more than three months–March 15 to June 22–due to the pandemic but when racing resumed Whylie and Salsita Roja were ready.

Whylie, 64, sent out She'smysunshine to a fourth in the Beyond The Wire Stakes March 14 at Laurel Park and only ran one horse–She'sfirstclass in a waiver maiden claimer at Belmont June 12–during the Parx shutdown period.

The first day racing returned to the Philadelphia area Whylie saddled the winner of the third race–Coupella in a starter allowance–sent out Karabessa to win a starter allowance June 23, and Salsita Roja made it three wins for the trainer in a week with a tally in a starter allowance at 6 furlongs June 29. The trainer added another win to make it four in June when Ask Siri won a starter allowance June 30.

The productive June put some money in the account and set the stage for a big summer for Salsita Roja. She stretched her win streak to four with a front-running score in a starter allowance at 6 furlongs Aug. 24 then made it five straight with a 10¼-length destruction of four opponents who remained in an off-the-turf 5-furlong starter allowance. The final win of the year–and perhaps her best–came Oct. 19 when Salsita Roja went 6 furlongs in 1:10.33.

Silvestre Gonzalez rode Salsita Roja in all six wins, taking over on the Florida-bred out of the Giant's Causeway mare Caitrionell after Whylie was disappointed with a ride on the filly to close her 3-year-old campaign.

"It takes a special exercise rider to gallop her and even my regular exercise rider couldn't gallop her," said Whylie, who runs the mare in his Emerald Racing Stable colors. "Silvestre Gonzalez is the one that came and put all the work in her, that's why I don't ride anybody else on her. He put all the work in in the mornings, got her to relax, galloped her real good. He was coming in the morning."

Numerous positive tests for coronavirus among the Parx riding colony resulted in track management closing the stable area to jockeys in late November. That also made the decision to stop on Salsita Roja for the year easy, Whylie said.

"Once they started stopping the riders from coming in the morning, I didn't want to put anybody else on her," he said. "So, I let her down for the time being. Right now, though, she's raring to go again but I told her, 'Not yet.'"

Whylie hopes to find a race by late February or early March for Salsita Roja, who held her lead atop the list of leading

horses by wins at Parx for 2020. She also ended the year in a tie for 16th in North America, just two back of eight-time winners Hunka Burning Love, Galerio, Frost Or Frippery, Combination and Greeleys Charm.

A $5,000 short yearling at the 2017 OBS winter mixed sale who later sold for $9,000 at that year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale, Salsita Roja started her career at Arlington Park on the turf and then tried the synthetic for Victory Stables and trainer Hugo Rodriguez. She later raced in South Florida, getting her first win for trainer Armando De La Cerda before Whylie bought her privately after she was last of six–showing none of her customary early speed–in a $12,500 maiden claimer at Gulfstream Park in June 2019.

"Her form looked terrible, but I saw she had a little bit of an issue and I just worked on her," Whylie said. "She looked the part. Looked like a speed filly that would do very well at Parx. Even though her form was bad, after going over her and seeing where her problem was it looked like if I gave her enough time it would be OK. So, I bought her."

Whylie couldn't get a stall for the filly and trained her initially off a nearby farm for about six weeks. She showed some speed and finished sixth for a $7,500 tag in her first start for Whylie Sept. 15, good enough to land a spot on the Parx backstretch. After three straight thirds and a fourth in her 2019 finale, Salsita Roja started the win streak that brought her career record to 7-for-22 and $118,045 in earnings.

"I tell you what, she's a special filly," Whylie said. "She's done right by me and I have to do right by her."

NOTES: Salsita Roja finished one win better than four others on the Parx list–Dreamer's Moon, Madam Meena, Flat Out Beautiful, Fran's Worrier–for most wins in 2020. Jamie Ness topped the trainer standings by wins (109) and earnings ($2,453,216) while he also led the owner standings through his Jagger Inc. stable with 42 wins and $825,626. Mychel Sanchez led the jockeys by wins (131) and purses ($3,363,576) . . . Parx will run 150 dates in 2021, down from its original 170-date schedule, Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday through Dec. 19. The track will not run for two weeks in August and a stakes schedule, which may or may not include the Pennsylvania Derby-G1 and Cotillion Stakes-G1, had not been finalized by mid-January.


JIM MCCUE

Familiar Story

Star of Night wins six of seven to help Runco earn 15th straight training title

BY PAUL HALLORAN. PHOTOGRAPHS BY COADY PHOTOGRAPHY.



Jeff Runco trainee Star of Night scored six wins in seven starts in 2020, all at Charles Town, and closed out the season with three consecutive stakes victories.

Even the disruptions caused by a global pandemic could not disturb the natural order in 2020 at Charles Town Races, where Jeff Runco won the training title for the 15th year in a row.

Runco saddled the winners of 93 races at the West Virginia track last year and from 424 starts his runners compiled $2,114,150 in earnings. With 100 wins nationally, he ranked in the top 20 in that category for the 14th time in the last 20 years.

"You have to have a hard-working team around you to get that done," Runco said of his latest training title.

Talented horses in the stable also help, and Runco had one of the best in Star of Night, a Creative Cause filly who had a banner 3-year-old campaign with six wins and a second in seven starts.

After running second in her debut Dec. 13, 2019, Star of Night broke her maiden Jan. 31 and kept on winning. There was an allowance score in February prior to the Covid-caused shutdown, and a second and a win after the track reopened in May. Star of Night, owned by Heinz and Eric Steinmann's Huntertown Farm, swept three state-bred stakes to close out the 2020 campaign, in which she earned $152,405.

"She is a very good filly. She's done everything asked of her," said Runco, who has almost 4,400 career wins (4,392 as of Jan. 17) in his 37-year career, including more than 3,700 at Charles Town. "She won all three stakes, she beat older horses in her last start and she stretched out when we asked her to."

The stretch-out came when she won the 1⅛-mile My Sister Pearl Stakes Dec. 12, avenging an earlier defeat at the hooves of Bridging the Gap, a 4-year old with whom she shared the lead for most wins in 2020.

"She's a fantastic horse," Runco said of the Huntertown Farm homebred who is out of the Malibu Moon mare Splendiferous Moon. "I knew she was special from the beginning, but you never know how special until you get 'em going. She stayed healthy and we got to run her in the spots we wanted to run her."

That was a feat in the year of the pandemic. Racing was paused from mid-March until mid-May and again for 10 days in November due to positive Covid-19 tests in the jockeys' room.

"It was obviously challenging for everyone, but the job our whole team did in helping us not only return from a shutdown earlier in the year but allowing us to achieve business volumes for racing that are unprecedented in our history has been remarkable," said Erich Zimny, Charles Town's vice president of racing and sports operations. "We're grateful for our fans and horseplayers who continue to support our product, our industry partners that have been critical to our success and the Charles Town HBPA, which was very cooperative in a year that was as challenging for the local horsemen as anyone."

Runco agreed.

"It was a tough year for everybody," said the former jockey, who trains three-time Maryland Million Sprint Stakes runner Lewisfield (first in 2018 and third the last two years). "When you're off that long and not able to race, all you can do is train them, but horses need to race. We got through it."

And, not surprisingly, Runco got through it better than most at Charles Town.

NOTES: Bridging the Gap is owned and trained by John McKee, who was the leading owner with 34 wins and $827,777 in purses. McKee won two of the West Virginia Breeders Classic stakes Oct. 10, while Runco took three. Arnaldo Bocachica dominated the jockey standings on the way to earning his third riding title. Bocachica had more than twice as many wins—160—than runner-up Gerald Almodovar, who had 75. Runco, Ronney Brown and McKee were the only trainers with more than $1 million in purses . . . Charles Town set a record for per-race handle for the sixth consecutive year. The $231,518 figure eclipsed last year's mark by more than 48 percent. Total handle in 2020 was up 50 percent from 2019. The track set a record for a non-Charles Town Classic Day handle when $4,330,203 was wagered May 14, the day the track reopened after the Covid closure . . . The forced rescheduling of the Grade 2 Classic from April to August resulted in the track's two signature races being run the same day, as the Charles Town Oaks-G3 was also held Aug. 28. Sleepy Eyes Todd won the Classic by 7½ lengths, with hometown hero Runnin'toluvya—like Bridging the Gap, by West Virginia's leading sire Fiber Sonde—running third a year after becoming the first West Virginia-bred to win it. Fly On Angel beat a good Oaks field that included Grade 1 winner Wicked Whisper. ✷

Game On

Pennsylvania-bred Seville gelding carries Kreiser, Derr to 2020 crowns

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Does Tim Kreiser have the magic touch, or did it just take O K Game On 10 starts to figure it out?

You could make a cogent argument for both, but regardless of the cause, the effect was the Pennsylvania-bred becoming the leading horse by wins (five) and earnings ($120,535) at Penn National Race Course in 2020.

After O K Game On went 0-for-7 as a 2-year-old, Kreiser claimed the gray gelding for longtime client Robert Derr in his first start of 2020, Jan. 4. O K Game On broke his maiden in his second start for Derr and Kreiser, and he obviously enjoyed having his picture taken.

"When he learned how to win, maybe he liked it," Kreiser said.

In 12 starts for Kreiser, the son of Seville (Ger) out of the Bernstein mare Easy Biscuit reeled off five wins, four seconds and two thirds, earning $117,271. Not bad for a $10,000 claim.

"He seemed to get better every start," said Kreiser, who won his seventh consecutive training title with 74 wins and $1,109,592 in earnings. "He was consistent. He definitely wanted to run long."

All five wins came at a mile or longer, including an 11½-length romp in his final start, an allowance Dec. 9.

"He's lanky and not the most beautiful horse to look at. He's a gangly thing, but he gets good air [when he runs]," said Kreiser, who ranked in the top 20 in wins nationally from 2017 to 2019.

O K Game On, bred by Kenneth Groff, helped Derr become the leading owner in wins with 26. Tom Coulter was first in earnings with $401,901. It was fitting that Derr and Kreiser were atop their respective categories; Derr was Kreiser's first client when he started training in 1993.

"He had one horse with another trainer and he talked to me [about training for him]," Kreiser said. "He bought one from Todd Beattie and we got five horses that we went 50-50 on. We did well."

Kreiser trained Derr's More Than Candy and Lightly Wound, who combined for more than $455,000 in earnings.

Though he grew up 15 minutes from Penn National, Kreiser had no inclination to work in racing. He had learned how to make cabinets at a vocational school and was working at a construction company when he got laid off in 1983. A high school classmate who was working at the track said they were looking for help and Kreiser should give it a try. He eventually went to work for trainer Stephen Rowan, and when called to return to his job, he opted to build a career at the racetrack instead. As it turns out, he picked the right profession.

"I've been blessed with great owners," said Kreiser, who owns a 23-percent winning percentage in his career and has the 2,000-win milestone in his sights (he had 1,927 as of Jan. 17). "You have to get the horses. I finished in second place (in the trainer standings) a lot and it didn't bother me. As long as you're making money, you know you're doing well."

But, when asked about the streak of training titles, he admitted, "It's nice to do that."

Like all tracks, Penn National was severely impacted by Covid-19, closing for three months and canceling four major stakes including the Penn Mile Stakes-G2, Penn Oaks and Pennsylvania Governor's Cup Stakes.

"It was pretty rough without racing," Kreiser said. "We were shut down from mid-March until June 19. We tried to keep all the help working, and I have some good owners."

NOTES: Edwin Gonzalez, the regular rider of O K Game On, was by far the leading jockey with 173 wins and $2,504,325 in purses. Tyler Conner finished second with 87 wins. Kreiser had 31 more wins than Bernie Houghton, second in the trainer standings with 43. Interesting Legacy and Fast Intentions were just behind O K Game On with four wins apiece. ✷

December stakes results around the region

Charles Town

12/11 A Huevo ($50K). 1⅛ mi. Reg. Accredited WV-Bred, 3&up.

Winner: **V. I. P. TICKET** (b.c., 4, Windsor Castle—Touring Hong Kong, by Cherokee's Boy). B-Dr. Alexandro Rubim Dias (Md.). O-ARD Racing Stables. T-Jeremiah O'Dwyer. J-Gerald Almodovar. Time: 1:53.48. Margin: 4. 2nd: **North Atlantic**. 3rd: **Awsome Faith**.

12/12 My Sister Pearl ($50K). 1⅛ mi. Reg. WV-Bred, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **STAR OF NIGHT** (gr./ro.f., 3, Creative Cause—Splendiferous Moon, by Malibu Moon). B-Heinz J. Steinmann (W.Va.). O-Huntertown Farm LLC. T-Jeff C. Runco. J-Arnaldo Bocachica. Time: 1:55.81. Margin: ½. 2nd: **Bridging the Gap**. 3rd: **See Ya Manana**.

Laurel Park

12/5 MD Juvenile Filly Championship ($100K). 7 F. Reg. MD-Bred or Sired 2YO F.

Winner: **STREET LUTE** (ch.f., Street Magician—Alottalute, by Midnight Lute). B-Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman (Md.). O-Lucky 7 Stables. T-John J. Robb. J-Xavier Perez. Time: 1:24.83. Margin: 1¾. 2nd: **Juror Number Four**. 3rd: **Maxine's Tap Room**.

12/5 Maryland Juvenile Futurity ($100K). 7 F. Reg. MD-Bred or Sired 2YO.

Winner: **JAXON TRAVELER** (dk.b./br.c., Munnings—Listen Boy, by After Market). B-Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau (Md.). O-West Point Thoroughbreds and Marvin Delfiner. T-Steven M. Asmussen. J-Johan Rosado. Time: 1:25.07. Margin: ¾. 2nd: **Singlino**. 3rd: **Latin Spice**.

12/26 Allaire duPont Distaff-G3 ($100K). 1⅛ mi. 3&up, F&M.



Winner: **ERES TU** (b.f., 4, Malibu Moon—It's True Love, by Yes It's True). B/O-Edward A. Seltzer and Beverly S. Anderson (Ky.). T-Arnaud Delacour. J-Jevian Toledo. Time: 1:50.57. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Wicked Awesome**. 3rd: **Another Broad**.

12/26 Anne Arundel County ($100K). 1 1/16 mi. 2YO F.

Winner: **MISS LESLIE** (dk.b./br.f., Paynter—Zeenut, by Mingun). B-Maxis Stable (Ky.). O-BB Horses. T-Claudio A. Gonzalez. J-Roimes Chirinos. Time: 1:44.97. Margin: head. 2nd: **Buckey's Charm**. 3rd: **The Grass Is Blue**.

12/26 Dave's Friend ($100K). 6F. 3&up.

Winner: **WHERESHETOLDMETOGO** (ch.g., 5, El Padrino—Undisputed Legend, by Domestic Dispute). B-David H. Wade (Md.). O-Madaket Stables LLC, Ten Strike Racing, Michael E. Kisber and Black Cloud Racing Stable LLC. T-Brittany Russell. J-Jevian Toledo. Time: 1:08.55. Margin: ¾. 2nd: **Taco Supream**. 3rd: **Penguin Power**.

12/26 Gin Talking ($100K). 7 F. 2YO F.

Winner: **STREET LUTE** (ch.f., Street Magician—Alottalute, by Midnight Lute). B-Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman (Md.). O-Lucky 7 Stables. T-John J. Robb. J-Xavier Perez. Time: 1:23.39. Margin: nose. 2nd: **Fraudulent Charge**. 3rd: **Out of Sorts**.

12/26 Heft ($100K). 7 F. 2YO.

Winner: **NO CENTS** (b.c., Goldencents—Faker, by Petionville). B/O-Hope Jones and Isabelle de Tomaso (N.J.). T-Cathal A. Lynch. J-Alex Cintron. Time: 1:23.79. Margin: neck. 2nd: **Kenny Had a Notion**. 3rd: **Singlino**.

12/26 Howard County ($100K). 1 1/16 mi. 2YO.

Winner: **SHACKQUEENKING** (ch.c., Shackleford—Jurys Out, by Lawyer Ron). B-Ledgelands LLC and Andrew C. Ritter (Ky.). O-Pocket 3's Racing LLC. T-Gary Capuano. J-Victor Rosales. Time: 1:44.36. Margin: nose. 2nd: **Ain't Da Beer Cold**. 3rd: **Erawan**.

12/26 Native Dancer ($100K). 1⅛ mi. 3&up.

Winner: **HARPERS FIRST RIDE** (dk.b./br.g., 4, Paynter—Polyester, by Tiz Wonderful). B-Sagamore Farm (Md.). O-MCA Racing Stable LLC. T-Claudio A. Gonzalez. J-Angel Cruz. Time: 1:48.56. Margin: 3½. 2nd: **Forewarned**. 3rd: **Cordmaker**.

12/26 Willa On the Move ($100K). 6 F. 3&up, F&M.



JIM MCCUE (2)

Winner: **DONTLETSWEETFOOLYA** (b.f., 3, Stay Thirsty—Stunning Electra, by Catienus). B-BHMFR LLC (Ky.). O-Five Hellions Farm. T-Lacey Gaudet. J-Jevian Toledo. Time: 1:09.47. Margin: 2¼. 2nd: **Hibiscus Punch**. 3rd: **Malibu Mischief**.

Parx Racing

12/7 Pennsylvania Nursery ($80K). 7 F. Reg. PA-Bred 2YO.



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Winner: **FIRE'S FINALE** (b.c., Jump Start—Exchanging Fire, by Exchange Rate). B-Kenwood Racing LLC (Pa.). O-Kenwood Racing LLC and Degaetano and Pastore Inc. T-Kelly J. Breen. J-Mychel J. Sanchez. Time: 1:25.35. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Kidnapped**. 3rd: **Just a Thought**.

First two Barbados runners are winners

Shamrock Farm's freshman sire Barbados got his first winner when his 2-year-old daughter Insightful led at every call in a 5½-furlong maiden race at Tampa Bay Downs Dec. 30. Kicking off the new year a little over a week later the stallion got his second winner from as many starters as Sue Loves Barbados won his debut in a Laurel Park waiver maiden Jan. 8.

Insightful, a chestnut filly purchased by Ridenjac Racing for $4,500 from the Shamrock Farm consignment at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale, went off as the 2.70-1 favorite in her debut while facing 10 others, all in for a $16,000 tag. Trained by Dennis Ward, the filly zipped through fractions of :22.08, :45.79 and :58.12 and cruised home in 1:04.63 to win by 1¾ lengths. She came back next out to win by 4 lengths in a Tampa Bay claimer when risked for $25,000 Jan. 15, getting 6 furlongs in 1:10.54. She has earnings of $19,695 in three starts.

Insightful was bred in Maryland by Douglas Brown's Little Man Farm out of Falcon's Eye (by Mutakddim) and foaled at Shamrock.

Sue Loves Barbados, out of the Northern Afleet mare Quiet Run, was purchased by his trainer Dale Capuano at the same sale for $15,000 from breeder Shamrock Farm and races for Michael Scheffres. The bay gelding was second choice of seven new 3-year-olds, chased the early leader and took control near the sixteenth pole, drawing off to win by 2 lengths going 6½ furlongs.

Barbados got a late start in his first breeding season in 2017 and has five foals in his first crop. The son of Speightstown was one of the top 3-year-old sprinters of 2015 and retired to Shamrock Farm in Woodbine, Md., after a 16-start career in which he won four times, with three seconds and a third, for earnings of $377,241.

A winner at 2 at Keeneland, he won the Spectacular Bid Stakes at Gulfstream in his first start at 3, completing 6 furlongs in 1:09.40, and followed with a score in the Grade 3 Hutcheson Stakes over X Y Jet as the odds-on favorite.

Sidelined by a knee chip after the Hutcheson, he returned to place in three graded stakes that season, including a second to eventual sprint champion Runhappy in the Grade 3 Phoenix Stakes at Keeneland. In his first start at 4 he captured Tampa Bay's 6-furlong Pelican Stakes, getting the distance in 1:09.96.

Out of the stakes-winning Street Cry (Ire) mare Northern Station, Barbados is from the family of Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 winner Raven's Pass, champion Rainbow View, Grade 1 winner No Matter What, Bright Thought, a multiple graded stakes winner who holds the course record for 1½ miles on the turf at Santa Anita (2:22.72), and multiple graded winner and E Dubai, sire of Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 winner Fort Larned.

Barbados stands for $2,500.

Correction

In the January edition, we listed Wicked Strong, Warrior's Reward and Poseidon's Warrior as the only active regional stallions to produce a graded stakes winner. They were the only active regional stallions to produce a horse who won a graded stakes in 2020. In terms of career production, they are joined by several active regional sires including During, Fiber Sonde, Friesan Fire, Great Notion, Hey Chub, Limehouse, Lord Shanakill, Outflanker, Smarty Jones and Uptowncharlybrown.

Top Mid-Atlantic sires of 2020

Based on earnings through Dec. 31.
Includes all countries reported to The Jockey Club, including those in the Southern Hemisphere.
(D-deceased; R-retired)

General earnings

Sire	strs	wnrs	wins	earnings
Jump Start (Pa-D)	162	72	117	$3,276,137
Warrior's Reward (Pa)	175	85	139	3,019,701
Fiber Sonde (WV)	96	53	100	2,457,512
Wicked Strong (Pa)	145	61	99	2,427,173
Great Notion (Md)	94	42	69	2,389,019
El Padrino (Pa-D)	86	40	57	2,151,317
Poseidon's Warrior (Pa)	102	47	76	1,972,449
Golden Lad (Md)	54	23	43	1,618,170
Friesan Fire (Md)	75	31	53	1,460,803
Bandbox (Md)	47	28	41	1,454,624

2-year-old earnings

Sire	strs	wnrs	wins	earnings
Wicked Strong (Pa)	48	12	14	$515,688
Great Notion (Md)	20	6	9	453,162
†Mosler (Md)	25	10	12	451,511
†Uncle Lino (Md)	17	7	8	339,225
Fiber Sonde (WV)	17	6	10	334,570
Street Magician (Md)	2	2	6	312,408
Bourbon Courage (Md)	15	7	8	269,232
†Social Inclusion (Pa)	16	4	4	196,123
†Juba (WV)	10	5	6	191,732
Jump Start (Pa-D)	13	3	4	180,072

† Freshman sire

Freshmen sires

Sire	strs	wnrs	wins	earnings
Mosler (Md)	25	10	12	$451,511
Uncle Lino (Md)	17	7	8	339,225
Social Inclusion (Pa)	16	4	4	196,123
Juba (WV)	10	5	6	191,732
Peace and Justice (Pa)	9	3	4	161,479

Second-crop sires cumulative

Sire	strs	wnrs	wins	earnings
Wicked Strong (Pa)	151	71	137	$3,563,052
Golden Lad (Md)	55	28	58	2,284,641
Bourbon Courage (Md)	50	26	39	1,757,165
Imagining (Md)	48	17	22	1,293,945
Normandy Invasion (Pa-R)	44	13	18	543,347

Sires by number of stakes winners

FIBER SONDE (WV) – 12
Bridging the Gap, Chief Randel, Dr. Feelgood, Fancy Concho, Last Print, Penguin Power, Remy's Rocket, Runnin'toluvya, Sherwood Lady, Shutupn'kissme, Theladyistrue, Youthinkthatsfunny

GREAT NOTION (Md) – 6
Anna's Bandit, Epic Idea, Karan's Notion, Kenny Had a Notion, Pretty Good Year, What the Beep

WARRIOR'S REWARD (Pa) – 6
Battle Station, Exclusivo, Message, Night Ops, Stowe Angel, Wellington Wonder

JUMP START (Pa-D) – 4
Fire's Finale, Its a Journey, Jumpstartmyheart, Look Strike

RIMROD

Danzig—Annie Edge (Ire), by Nebbiolo



$76,712 A.E./starter

Sire of **LENAPE RIM** ($617,366) and **VIANELLO** ($263,255), Neo's Grand Finale ($347,932), Checkbouncin Billy ($340,909), Averyon ($228,664), Majestic Michelle ($196,375), Lemon Strudel ($195,510), etc.

Multiple stakes-winning son of **DANZIG**, out of multiple graded stakes winner **ANNIE EDGE (Ire).**

Half-brother to champion and leading sire **SELKIRK** and G3 **RORY CREEK**. Full brother to G3 **SEEBE** (graded stakes producer), **SYNCLINE** and **SKILLINGTON**.

$1,500 LFSN

Registered PA stallion; Property of George Strawbridge Jr.

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DOUGLAS LEES

CHARLES. C. FENWICK

Charles C. "Cuppy" Fenwick, the longtime director of the Maryland Hunt Cup, died Dec. 16. The retired Baltimore County businessman was born and raised in the Glyndon area and spent his entire life on the farm where he grew up and developed a love of the outdoors, including bird hunting and riding horses. He was 96.

The youngest of six children, Mr. Fenwick's parents were G. Bernard and Margaret G. Fenwick; his great-grandfather Arunah Abell founded the Baltimore Sun. Mr. Fenwick had five children, including horsemen Charles C. Fenwick Jr. and H. Bruce Fenwick and National Steeplechase Association board member Peter R. Fenwick.

The 1942 graduate of Gilman School, Fenwick attended Princeton University for one year before enlisting in the infantry where he served in the second World War and landed in Normandy in September 1944. As a member of the Anti-Tank Company, 407th Infantry, Mr. Fenwick was trained in explosives. He had a role in the Battle of the Bulge, laying strategic mines during the Christmas Eve fighting, for which he earned a Bronze Star.

After the war, Mr. Fenwick married Rosalie Bruce. The marriage ended in divorce. In 1963, he married Elizabeth White.

Fenwick began his professional career as a clerk with the U.S. Steamship Line for the port of Baltimore. He later co-founded Fenwick, Michaels and Downes, the predecessor of Riggs, Counselman, Michaels and Downes. In 1962, Mr. Fenwick acquired the rights to sell Volkswagen cars in Maryland and opened his first dealership, Towson Valley Motors. The dealership expanded and relocated several times before establishing itself with the name Valley Motors. In addition, Fenwick partnered with William Kidd Sr. to open Bill Kidd's Toyota/Volvo in Cockeysville.

Although never a steeplechase jockey, Fenwick served as the director of the Maryland Hunt Cup for more than 30 of the race's 125-year history. The Maryland Hunt Cup is run on the farm adjacent to his home and the nearby Green Spring Valley Hounds of which he was a member. In his later years, he spent most afternoons hiking through the woods around his farm, often with his wife of 57 years and their dogs.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth W. Fenwick, sister, Frances F. Edelen and children, Charles (spouse, Sherry), Bruce (Patti), Peter (Amy), Edwin Abell Fenwick and John G. Fenwick (Betsy). He also is survived by nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to the Sacred Heart Parish, 63 Sacred Heart Lane, Glyndon, Md. 21136.

HERBERT HOGG

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred owner, trainer, breeder and retired accountant Herbert L. "Herbie" Hogg died Nov. 15. He was 73. He was the husband of Diane Minchhoff Hogg, with whom he celebrated 52 years of marriage in August. He was born in Philadelphia, son of the late Norman H. and Nancy Longenecker Hogg. He graduated from Lancaster Country Day School class of 1965 and Elizabethtown College with a B.A. in political science.

He worked in the accounting department at New Holland Machine Company upon graduation from college and later joined his father at Norman H. Hogg Accounting in Christiana, Pa. Upon his father's retirement, Hogg continued the family accounting business which became Hogg and Company, until his full retirement in May 2015. Hogg and Company served many farms, owners, trainers and breeders in the region.

Hogg never met a stranger and truly enjoyed the relationships he built with his clients. His love for horses started at a young age and he was an accomplished lifelong horseman. He foxhunted since age 6 and was fortunate to continue hunting into his later years, including a day out a week before he died. He was an active member with the Cochran Fox Hunt Club and the Fair Hill Foxhounds. Hogg and his mount Paulrus – seventh behind Strike the Gold in the 1991 Kentucky Derby – were the subject of a Pensioner On Parade feature in the February 2017 *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred.*

Hogg showed horses for many years before becoming involved in the Thoroughbred industry as a trainer, owner and breeder. His numerous success stories including Penn National favorite Battle Lou, a Pennsylvania-bred who won 16 of 103 starts in the 1970s and '80s. Hogg and partner William Wise campaigned graded stakes winner Quidnaskra, among others, with trainer Mary Eppler.

Hogg was extensively involved with the Christiana Community Ambulance Association where he served as president, treasurer and on the general board for more than 20 years. In addition to his wife, Hogg is survived by three sisters Mary "Molly" Goodman, Susan Hogg Wise and M. Jane Groff, nieces and nephews. Contributions may be made to the Christiana Community Ambulance Association, 55 Pine Creek Drive, Gap, Pa. 17527.

MARY ODOM

Mary R. Odom, widow of trainer George P. "Maje" Odom, died Nov. 10 after a long illness. The Odoms bred, raised and trained horses for many decades at their Marydel Farm in Middletown, Del., and from 1963-68 operated Maryland Stallion Station in Chesapeake City, Md., on land that would become E.P. Taylor's Windfields Farm (and later Northview Stallion Station).

The couple stood nine stallions at the time they sold Maryland Stallion Station, including champions Nail (trained by Maje Odom) and Impressive, Preakness winner Royal Orbit, and the young stallion Sunrise Flight (who would sire eight stakes winners from 73 foals and became an influential broodmare sire, most notably through Pleasant Colony).

In a 1973 *The Maryland Horse* interview, Mary Odom noted the creation of Maryland Stallion Station came about because "I was unhappy about sending my mares to distant states to be bred, and yet there weren't enough suitable stallions in Maryland to breed them to. So I decided the thing to do was build my own stallion station."

She managed Marydel Farm and supervised the breeding of the broodmares. She met her husband in Saratoga in 1958 and said in the 1973 interview "our entire married life has been centered around horses.

We were married in 1960 and bought [Marydel] the same year."

The Odoms foaled their mares at Maryland Stallion Station, then later at Allaire duPont's Woodstock Farm (to have Maryland-breds). Among the best they bred were stakes winners Waggley (who later produced Grade 1 winner Marley Vale), graded winner Rectory, No No and Muskoka Wyck, the latter out of their own stakes winner Lachesis.

The couple retired from the business in the fall of 1987, selling Marydel and their horses and retiring to Florida (while spending summers in Saratoga). Maje Odom died in April 1997 at age 90.

Odom was an avid golfer, fisherman, and gardener. She is survived by four children, two of whom are in the horse business: Van Nardiello, an equine dentist in New York, Maryland, and Florida; and horseman Drew Nardiello in Lexington.

FRANK WRIGHT

Frank P. Wright, a longtime member of the board of the Maryland Horse Breeders Assocation and Maryland Million Ltd. who devoted hours to the organizations, including secretary/treasurer for the MHBA, as well as committee chairman for the MHBA and Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's joint Political Action Committee fundraisers, passed away Jan. 10 at his home in Lutherville. He was 95.

Wright and his wife of 71 years, Virginia (Ginny), owned and operated 340-acre Huntingfields farm in Hampstead, Md., for more than 40 years before moving to a retirement community in 2009. They purchased their farm in 1968 and took four years to restore the house and outbuildings before moving in. Ginny bought their first Thoroughbred in 1977 with the thought of turning her into a riding horse; when that didn't work out, the Wrights made her a broodmare despite 19 losses in as many starts.

Their first mare was a failure as a producer, but the Wrights soon built a broodmare band. Early purchase Sour Dancer cost $7,500 as a yearling in 1982 and produced stakes-placed My Sweet Alesia and $200,935-earner Lilycakes. Sour Dancer was the great-granddam of the Wrights' Lady Sabelia, who won the Barbara Fritchie Handicap-G2 and earned $740,465.

They bred and owned 2007 Maryland Broodmare of the Year Blue Sky Princess, a stakes winner/graded stakes-placed runner whose offspring included graded winner Tessa Blue (sold as a yearling at Saratoga for $215,000) and stakes winner



LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Inner Harbour. Yearling purchase Jammu produced as her first foal 14-time winner Trump Mahal, whose five stakes wins included the 1996 Maryland Million Turf.

Multiple stakes winner and $529,718-earner Tyaskin, by Allen's Prospect, was a second-generation homebred out of their Akureyri mare Reyri's Song.

But the couple's first stakes winner, and best runner, was Valay Maid, Maryland-bred champion 3-year-old filly of 1990. The daughter of Carnivalay was born at Huntingfields but bred by the Wrights' then-farm manager Joe Hamilton and his wife Betty. Purchased as a weanling out of the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December sale for $5,200, Valay Maid won the Molly Pitcher and Cotillion Handicaps, both Grade 2, placed in three graded stakes at 3, including the Breeders' Cup Distaff-G1 in her 13th start of the year, and earned a career total $641,442. She remained at Huntingfields for her entire life, as did many of the Wrights horses, and was the granddam of the couple's multiple stakes winner Yankee Wildcat.

The Wrights were honored by the MTHA in 2003 as Outstanding Owner of the Year.

Wright was regional vice-president for the Avis car and truck leasing business for 20 years before purchasing two franchises in 1976 and forming York Truck Rental, which operated in York and Lancaster, Pa. He sold the business and retired in 1985.

He also was a devoted dog owner and showed champion German Shorthair and English Pointers in the 1960s and '70s.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by daughter Elizabeth "Liz" Wright and her husband Charles Holman.

Texas Travels



In the early 1990s Fasig-Tipton lent its expertise to the Texas Thoroughbred Breeders Association to help put on the annual yearling sale at the Fort Worth Stockyards each August. The sale consisted of a 50-horse selected session followed by an open session which was come one, come all. As part of this arrangement, Fasig provided someone to travel around the farms and ranches in Texas and Oklahoma inspecting the entered yearlings to make the selections.

Clay Murray was the director of sales at the TTBA under the direction of executive director Jeff Hooper and, with the help of Brock Sheridan who also edited the *Texas Thoroughbred* magazine, he organized the inspections and a representative of Fasig-Tipton joined him on the tour. For 1993 Mason Grasty, who had recently moved to Maryland to take over the Fasig Midlantic division, filled the role. The following year, as running the Midlantic office became a more than full-time job for Mason, I filled that role from 1994 to 1996. My first year Mason was still involved and we spent two days inspecting together and then he went home and I was cut loose.

Each day Clay and I would have a schedule of farms and ranches to visit but we found that by lunchtime we were always several hours ahead of schedule. This was because Mason was such a naturally curious and garrulous person that he would spend hours inspecting, not just the yearlings but every animal and piece of farm equipment at each stop. Mason was particularly interested in fowl of all types and would inspect every chicken on the place.

At one of the farms we visited together, Mason was particularly taken with some young hens with bright blue feathers. He marveled to the owner that he had never seen this particular breed and didn't know it was possible to have blue chickens. Rather sheepishly, the man explained that those were chicks his children had gotten at Easter when they had been dyed blue. Clay and I had a good laugh at Mason's expense.

After we adjusted our schedule from "Mason Time" to "Rick Time," we were able to visit a large number of farms and ranches each day. The challenge was that Texas is huge and the distances between the horses were immense. Often we would inspect horses in one area in the morning and then drive all afternoon to get to the area we were planning to inspect the next day. Occasionally, we would fly from one place to another.

On one occasion I was sent alone to look at one horse in Pecos in the southwest portion of the state. I flew from Austin to Midland-Odessa in the heart of the Permian Basin oil fields and then drove 100 miles to spend the night in Pecos. My instructions for the morning were "drive 50 miles north on Route 285 until you see a blue farm gate. Someone will meet you at 9 a.m. at the gate, which will be locked." I promise that I followed the instructions and drove 50 miles on Route 285. During that drive I did not pass a single car or truck and the only living thing I saw was a whitetail doe standing along the shoulder of the road.

When I got to the blue farm gate, as promised, it was locked, and at 9:15 no one had appeared to unlock it. Of course, I had no cell phone in 1995 so there I sat. Eventually someone appeared and opened the gate. He beckoned me to follow and eight miles later we arrived at a barn. A very nice yearling was led out and I opened my notebook to discover that I was inspecting a colt by–Rollicking. I asked how the hell a Rollicking had gotten to the end of the earth and discovered that they had bought the mare carrying him over the phone at a Midlantic December sale.

On another occasion I flew to Lubbock to look at yearlings at one ranch. I drove a good way out of Lubbock and when I got out of the car I was almost blown to New Mexico by the wind. I was inspecting horses outside and I asked the woman helping me if it was always this windy. She thought a moment and said, "Once in a while we get a day that's not this windy." I could barely stay on my feet. When I got back to Austin I mentioned this to Clay Murray who grew up in West Texas and he told me that he never noticed the wind until he went to college and came home on vacation. At that same farm, the last yearling they showed me was covered in bandages from head to toe. Apparently, a few weeks before, he had been picked up in a "small" tornado and deposited on the other side of the road from where he had been grazing.

I must say that I went to Texas with a smug eastern superiority about horsemanship. It was probably the attitude Kentucky hardboots have toward those of us who raise horses on the East Coast. After all, they "invented the horse." What I learned in my travels was that there are as many ways to raise a horse as there are cows in Texas. Horses can be raised like cattle utilizing pens and chutes with hardly any handling; they can be raised behind fences made from welded recycled oil-field pipe; they can be raised in 10,000-acre pastures and in half-acre pens in a Fort Worth suburb. If good nutrition and good horsemanship are practiced, the horses will thrive.

In a future column I'll write more about my experiences in the Southwest; from Keith Asmussen's 600-stall yearling facility on the border in Laredo to the time when we spent four days in Oklahoma and ate barbeque for every meal. It can feel like another world. ✹



LAUREN KING

Virginia-bred Largent recorded his first graded win in the Fort Lauderdale Stakes-G2 at Gulfstream in December.

Complete up-to-date statistics on this year's Mid-Atlantic-bred stakes winners can be found at MidAtlanticTB.com, including interactive pedigree, race record, produce record of dam, and much more.

Maryland-bred

HARPERS FIRST RIDE, dk.b./br.g., 2016, by Paynter—Polyester, by Tiz Wonderful. Bred by Sagamore Farm; owned by MCA Racing Stable LLC; trained by Claudio A. Gonzalez. $100,000 **Deputed Testamony S**, 1 1/16 mi., 3 & up, Laurel, Sept. 5; $250,000 **Pimlico Special-G3**, 1 3/16 mi., 3 & up, Pimlico, Oct. 2; $100,000 **Richard W. Small S**, 1 1/16 mi., 3 & up, Laurel, Nov. 28; $100,000 **Native Dancer S**, 1⅛ mi., 3 & up, Laurel, Dec. 26; 2nd **Maryland Million Classic S**.

PETE'S PLAY CALL, ch.g., 2013, by Munnings—Taft Lil Queen, by Irish Open. Bred by Mr. and Mrs. Charles McGinnes; owned by Michael Dubb; trained by Rudy R. Rodriguez. $100,000 **Gravesend S**, 6½ fur., 4 & up, Aqueduct, Jan. 2.



JIM MCCUE

Maryland-bred Whereshetoldmetogo won his second stakes in a row in the Dave's Friend.

STREET LUTE, ch.f., 2018, by Street Magician—Alottalute, by Midnight Lute. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman; owned by Lucky 7 Stables; trained by John J. Robb. $100,000 **Small Wonder S**, 5½ fur., Del.-bred or certified, 2-year-old fillies, Delaware, Sept. 26; $100,000 **Smart Halo S**, 6 fur., 2-year-old fillies, Laurel, Nov. 14; $100,000 **Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship S**, 7 fur., registered Md.-bred or sired 2-year-old fillies, Laurel, Dec. 5; $100,000 **Gin Talking S**, 7 fur., 2-year-old fillies, Laurel, Dec. 26; 2nd **Maryland Million Lassie S**.

V. I. P. TICKET, b.h., 2016, by Windsor Castle—Touring Hong Kong, by Cherokee's Boy. Bred by Dr. Alexandro Rubim Dias; owned by ARD Racing Stables; trained by Jeremiah O'Dwyer. $50,000 **A Huevo S**, 1⅛ mi., registered accredited W.Va.-breds, 3 & up, Charles Town, Dec. 11; 3rd **Confucius Say S**.

WHERESHETOLDMETOGO, ch.g., 2015, by El Padrino—Undisputed Legend, by Domestic Dispute. Bred by David H. Wade; owned by Madaket Stables LLC, Ten Strike Racing, Michael E. Kisber and Black Cloud Stable LLC; trained by Brittany Russell. $100,000 **Frank Y. Whiteley S**, 6 fur., 3 & up, Laurel, Nov. 28; $100,000 **Dave's Friend S**, 6 fur., 3 & up, Laurel, Dec. 26; 2nd **New Castle S**; 3rd **Iowa Sprint S**.

New Jersey-bred

NO CENTS, b.c., 2018, by Goldencents—Faker, by Petionville. Bred and owned by Hope Jones and Isabelle de Tomaso; trained by Cathal A. Lynch. $100,000 **James F. Lewis III S**,

6 fur., 2-year-olds, Laurel, Nov. 14; $100,000 **Heft S**, 7 fur., 2-year-olds, Laurel, Dec. 26.

Pennsylvania-bred

FIRE'S FINALE, b.c., 2018, by Jump Start—Exchanging Fire, by Exchange Rate. Bred by Kenwood Racing LLC; owned by Kenwood Racing LLC and Degaetano and Pastore Inc.; trained by Kelly J. Breen. $80,000 **Pennsylvania Nursery S**, 7 fur., registered Pa.-bred 2-year-olds, Parx, Dec. 7.

Virginia-bred

BOLDOR, b.g., 2016, by Munnings—Senate Caucus, by Siphon (Brz). Bred by Carlos S.E. Moore and Gillian Gordon-Moore; owned by Ed Orr and Susie Orr; trained by Steven M. Asmussen. $60,000 **Sam's Town S**, 5 fur., 4 & up, Delta Downs, Jan. 4.

LARGENT, b.g., 2016, by Into Mischief—Life in Seattle, by Unbridled. Bred by Lazy Lane Farms Inc.; owned by Twin Creeks Racing Stables LLC and Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners; trained by Todd A. Pletcher. $60,000 **Edward P. Evans S**, 1 mi., turf, registered Va.-bred or sired, 3 & up, Colonial, July 29; $75,000 **Bert Allen S**, 1 1/16 mi., turf, registered Va.-bred or sired, 3 & up, Laurel, Oct. 9; $200,000 **Fort Lauderdale S-G2**, 1 1/8 mi., turf, 3 & up, Gulfstream, Dec. 12; 2nd **Lure S**.



EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Pennsylvania-bred Fire's Finale captured the Pennsylvania Nursery in his stakes debut.

West Virginia-bred

STAR OF NIGHT, gr./ro.f., 2017, by Creative Cause—Splendiferous Moon, by Malibu Moon. Bred by Heinz J. Steinmann; owned by Huntertown Farm LLC; trained by Jeff C. Runco. $50,000 **Sylvia Bishop Memorial S**, 7 fur., registered accredited W.Va.-bred 3-year-old fillies, Charles Town, Aug. 28; $70,000 **W.Va. Tourism Office Breeders Classic S**, 7 fur., registered accredited W.Va.-bred or sired 3-year-old fillies, Charles Town, Oct. 10; $50,000 **My Sister Pearl S**, 1 1/8 mi., registered accredited W.Va.-bred fillies and mares, 3 & up, Charles Town, Dec. 12.

Maryland Horse®

February 2021

Official publication of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association; Vol. 86, No. 2



Re-discovering Discovery

Legendary racehorse, stallion had deep roots in state

Story by Andrew Hanna and Cindy Deubler



Native Dancer, Bold Ruler and Intentionally. All three stallions appear in the pedigree of 2020 Kentucky Derby-G1 and Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 winner Authentic. At least one can be found somewhere in the pedigrees of nearly every Thoroughbred in the world today. And all three are grandsons of Sagamore Farm's legendary stallion Discovery.

Discovery was born 90 years ago on March 3, 1931, in Kentucky at the Mereworth Farm of his breeder, Walter J. Salmon Sr. The connection to Maryland came two years later through Adolphe Pons, a bloodstock advisor who purchased a farm on the outskirts of Bel Air in 1933 he named Country Life Farm.

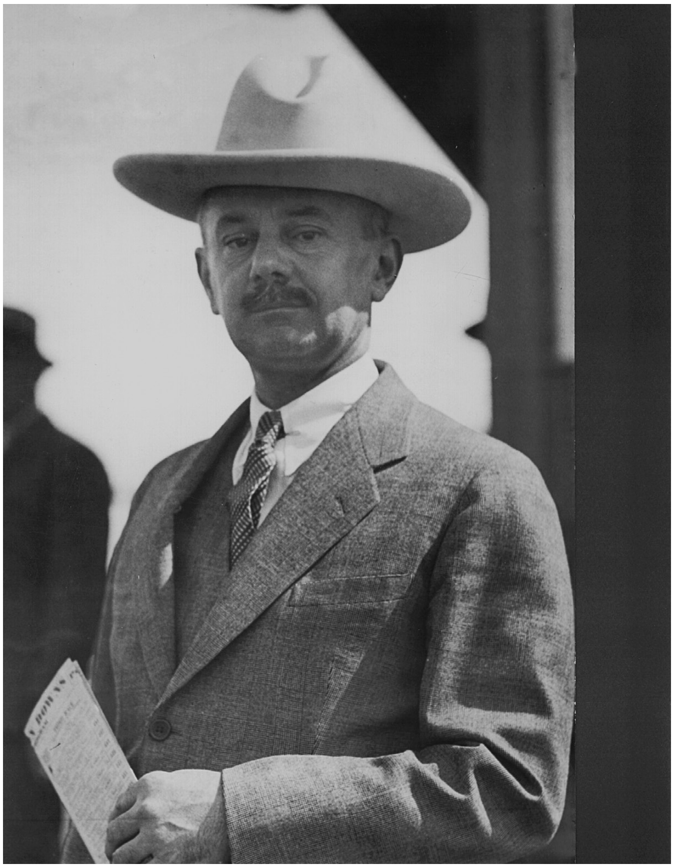
A one-time personal secretary to August Belmont II, Pons oversaw the sale of Belmont's yearling colt Man o' War, advising Samuel D. Riddle to make the purchase, and advised a number of other major owners, including Joseph E. Widener, before finding work as Salmon's agent.

After purchasing his first horses in 1919, Salmon had immediate success and was soon building a breeding empire. One of the earliest, and best, horses bred by Salmon was Display, a classic winner who sired Discovery in his first crop.

A son of Man o' War's sire Fair Play, Display was fiery, obstreperous, sometimes a menace–hot-blooded, as the Fair Play male line was described. But Display was one of the best runners of the mid-1920s. After capturing the 1926 Preakness Stakes and a host of other races in 103 starts, winning more than $250,000 (the equivalent of $3.6 million today), he was retired to stand at Mereworth.

Display's first book included Ariadne, a daughter of the English imported stallion *Light Brigade, sire of Mereworth's homebred 1929 Preakness winner Dr. Freeland. Ariadne had an unremarkable racing career before being retired, and except for Discovery, had an unremarkable broodmare career. But her granddam Adriana was by Hamburg, who stood for most of his life as the property of the Whitney family.

The blaze-faced Hamburg, also described as "fiery," was an exceptional broodmare sire, his daughters producing the likes of Regret, Maskette and Paul Jones. Adriana was a stakes producer, as was her daughter, Discovery's granddam Adrienne, who produced her first foal in 1923. That filly, Adria, was one of six to win stakes from the first crop bred





Adolphe Pons, founder of Country Life farm, raced Discovery 13 times, before the horse was sold to Alfred G. Vanderbilt. At the end of his racing career, the great handicap horse stood at Vanderbilt's Sagamore Farm for 21 years.

by Salmon (a crop that included Display).

In the throes of the Great Depression, and seeking a shift to a commercial breeding market, Salmon began leasing runners to Pons in 1932.

Josh Pons recalled those years his grandfather Adolphe raced the Salmon horses: "He leased the Mereworth racing stable–Swivel in 1932 won the Pimlico Futurity for him, then Discovery raced for him on lease in 1933. Right up until his last start at 2."

Over a storied career, Discovery accumulated virtually every honor available and established himself as one of the greatest racehorses in history. Whereas he possessed every bit of the strength and toughness of Display and Hanover, he didn't inherit their temperaments.

Discovery carried 130 pounds or more in 20 of his 63 races, winning 10, including the Merchants and Citizens Handicap under 139, carried as much as 143 pounds, and over four seasons made no less than 14 starts a year. His accomplishments were recognized seven decades later when he ranked 37th on the list of the Top 100 Racehorses of the 20th Century compiled by *The Blood-Horse.*

But his career started inauspiciously. Sent out for his first start by trainer John "Jack" Pryce in June 1933 at Belmont Park, he finished fourth. The favorite in his next two, he faded. Making his fourth start in 34 days, at Arlington Park, he figured it out. Discovery broke poorly and was forced to chase the pace from the outside. Just as everything seemed lost, the big chestnut accelerated and thundered under the wire a 5-length winner.

Discovery made his stakes debut in the Arlington Futurity two starts later but was never a factor. From there he shipped to Saratoga and hit the board in the Hopeful, won at Havre de Grace, and was stakes-placed at Laurel. In a span of seven days at Latonia in Kentucky in October, he finished third in the Breeders' Futurity followed by a second in the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes. He made 13 starts for Pons–winning twice, with two seconds and five thirds–before moving to Alfred G. Vanderbilt's stable.

Vanderbilt recalled the purchase of the colt with Josh Pons, who chronicled the exchange with the legendary breeder at Saratoga in August 1989 in his *Country Life Diary*: "You know Discovery raced in your grandfather's silks, until I bought the colt late in his 2-year-old year," said Vanderbilt. "Tried to buy him earlier–brought my silks up here for the Hopeful Stakes, as a matter of fact.

"Walter Salmon had everything tied up in real estate when the Depression hit. To keep his Mereworth Farm going, he sold his entire yearling crop to me one year for a thousand dollars a horse–I got five stakes winners from 20 horses–he leased the racing qualities of Discovery to your grandfather, who was his advisor. I was scheduled to go to Africa, and I told Mr. Salmon my final offer, take it or leave it. I bought Discovery in 1933 for $25,000. He never could beat Cavalcade in the big races, but he beat everybody else, and carried great weights."

Transferred to the care of Joseph "Bud" Stotler, Discovery made his 14th juvenile start, and first for Vanderbilt, in Pimlico's Walden Handicap, where he finished second. The season had tired him out, so Stotler gave him a long rest.

Discovery opened his 3-year-old season April 28 at Havre de Grace in the Chesapeake Stakes, finishing third, more than a length behind Cavalcade. When Discovery blazed through a workout in 1:37⅖, it convinced his connections that he was a Kentucky Derby contender.

One week after the Chesapeake, Discovery lined up against Cavalcade and 11 others in the Derby. Sent off at 12-1, he grabbed the lead after a mile but Cavalcade passed Discovery in the final 200 yards to win by 2½ lengths. Discovery settled for second, 4 lengths ahead of Agrarian.





Keeneland Library (2)

As a sire, Discovery's impact on the breed is best illustrated by Miss Disco (top) dam of Bold Ruler, and Geisha, dam of Native Dancer (shown here with a full sister to the great runner and influential sire).

The rematch with Cavalcade came seven days later in the Preakness Stakes. Both lost to High Quest, who beat Cavalcade by a nose, with Discovery third. Discovery made his fourth start in less than a month in a Belmont Park allowance, which he dominated. And he kept rolling.

His three starts in June included another defeat to Cavalcade when second in the American Derby at Washington Park in Chicago. "[The saying] 'Always a bridesmaid but never a bride,' can be applied to Discovery," wrote one journalist.

In his first start in July, Discovery shipped to New York and faced older horses in the Brooklyn Handicap, in which he defeated the top-class Dark Secret. That summer he destroyed the Whitney at Saratoga by 10 lengths under a feathery 105 pounds. Despite adding three more stakes wins, winning five of his last seven starts and breaking the 1 3/16-mile world record in winning Narragansett Park's Rhode Island Handicap, Cavalcade had beaten him five times that year and was voted Horse of the Year.

Racing exclusively in stakes in a 19-start 4-year-old season, Discovery began with five losses. Sent out to defend his title in the Brooklyn at Aqueduct in June, he conceded nine pounds, and favoritism, to that year's Triple Crown winner Omaha. Discovery soared to a 8-length victory and smashed the 1 1/8-mile world record.

Seven days later, Discovery decimated Azucar – winner of the Santa Anita Handicap – by 30 lengths. He was on an eight-race win streak, which included the Stars and Stripes Handicap by 6 lengths and the Arlington Handicap in track-record time, plus Suffolk Downs' Bunker Hill Handicap by 15 lengths (despite conceding nearly 30 pounds).

At Saratoga, Discovery carried 139 pounds in the Merchants and Citizens Handicap, but he brushed it – and the competition – off to become the first horse in more than 20 years to win with such an impost. Eleven days later, under the same impost in the Narragansett Special, he couldn't catch Top Row, in receipt of 29 pounds. Discovery returned three days later to win his second Whitney Stakes.

Discovery won 11 stakes that year, and edged Triple Crown winner Omaha for Horse of the Year while also named champion handicap horse.

While his final campaign wouldn't be as spectacular, his 14 starts yielded five stakes wins, including three-peats in the Brooklyn and Whitney. He also made his first trip to California and won Santa Anita's San Carlos Handicap. And, in one of the most remarkable displays of respect by a handicapper, he was assigned 143 pounds for the Merchants and Citizens. He tired to finish fifth, as the top three finishers carried 100, 107 and 108 pounds.

Vanderbilt said he would retire his champion after 1936, and true to his word Discovery entered stud at Sagamore Farm in Glyndon. Named champion handicap horse a second time, he won 27 times, 22 in stakes, and earned $195,287. He received racing's highest honor when inducted into the National Racing Hall of Fame in 1969, nearly 30 years before Cavalcade earned the same.

Discovery's brilliance continued. He sired 1948 champion handicap mare Conniver and the enduring Find, who raced 110 times and won more than $800,000. Discovery's offspring also inherited their father's durability; one of his sons, First Refusal, raced 209 times over a 13-year career.

Discovery sired 26 stakes winners, but his everlasting impact was as a broodmare sire. Vanderbilt bred Discovery's stakes-winning daughter Miss Disco, who gave birth to Bold Ruler, the 1957 Horse of the Year and one of the top stallions of the 20th century. Vanderbilt sold Miss Disco as a yearling, but kept Geisha, who produced the greatest of all Sagamore runners, Native Dancer, who also stamped his legacy not only as the sire of champion Raise a Native (sire of leading sires Mr. Prospector and Exclusive Native), among others, but as the grandsire of Northern Dancer.

Breeders from around the country supported Discovery, including Salmon, who received as a condition of the sale a breeding right for the stallion's first five seasons (Salmon bred stakes winners Dark Discovery and Dispose in Discovery's first crop). Baltimore County breeder William C. Price bred Discovery's daughter My Recipe, who would add another chapter to her sire's impact.

When owned by Harry Isaacs, My Recipe produced Intentionally, one of the top 2-year-olds of 1958, champion sprinter the next year, and sire of influential In Reality.

Discovery stood 21 years at Sagamore until retired in 1957. He died a year later in August at age 27 and was buried on the farm, not far from his champion granddaughter and fellow Hall of Famer Bed o' Roses. His obituary in *The Maryland Horse* written by Joe B. Hickey read: "The fabled weight-carrier of the '30s, one of the greatest American breeding ever has produced, was known as the Big Train. . . Of this lead-lugging titan whose imposts in 63 sorties totaled 7,855 pounds, John [Salvator] Hervey wrote: 'He was called upon to do things no other Thoroughbred ever attempted; and if he did not uniformly succeed, his success was such that the voice of detraction should be silent in the presence of a performer so transcendent.' "

Vanderbilt summed up what it was like to have such a stallion as Discovery, with a well-known and time-tested breeding theory: "The way to get a good horse is to breed a Discovery mare to anything." ❧



Maryland Fund Stakes Recaps





Jim McCue (2)

Jaxon Traveler

Maryland Juvenile Futurity
$100,000-guaranteed, 7 fur., registered Maryland-bred 2-year-olds.
Laurel Park, Dec. 5.

Dk.b./br.c., 2018, by Munnings—Listen Boy, by After Market. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau; owned by West Point Thoroughbreds and Marvin Delfiner; trained by Steven M. Asmussen. Foaled at Three Pines Farm, Reisterstown, Md.

Lifetime

starts	*1st*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*earnings*
3	3 (1)	0	0	$120,762

(through Dec. 5)

__2020:__ 1st $100,000 **Maryland Juvenile Futurity**, 7 fur., registered Md.-bred 2-year-olds, Laurel, Dec. 5.

Excitement followed Jaxon Traveler into his stakes debut, the Maryland Juvenile Futurity, after he won his first two starts by a combined 14 lengths. The 3-10 favorite didn't disappoint, setting all the fractions and holding off stakes winner Singlino to win by three-quarters of a length.

From the barn of Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen and owned by Marvin Delfiner in partnership with West Point Thoroughbreds, Jaxon Traveler captured his first start at Pimlico in September by 10 lengths, and took a 6-furlong allowance at Laurel in October in 1:09.34. In his first start at 7 furlongs, he flew through early fractions of :22.56 and :45.61 and finished in 1:25.07.

Based at Belmont Park, the son of Munnings, a $140,000 juvenile sales purchase at OBS in June, will continue to target sprints, according to West Point founder and president Terry Finley.

Bred by Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau, Jaxon Traveler is the fourth winner from four foals of racing age for his stakes-placed dam Listen Boy, a daughter of After Market the Pineaus purchased for $26,000 at the Keeneland November sale. In foal to Street Boss, the resulting colt sold as a yearling for $92,000. The Pineaus sold Jaxon Traveler as a yearling for $80,000. The mare has an unnamed 2-year-old Street Boss filly, a May foal, wasn't bred for 2020, and is now due to Cross Traffic. ❧

Street Lute

Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship Stakes
$100,000-guaranteed, 7 fur., registered Maryland-bred 2-year-old fillies.
Laurel Park, Dec. 5.

Ch.f., 2018, by Street Magician—Alottalute, by Midnight Lute. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman; owned by Lucky 7 Stables; trained by John J. Robb. Foaled at Dance Forth Farm, Chestertown, Md.

Lifetime

starts	*1st*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*earnings*
6	5 (4)	1 (1)	0	$290,220

(through Dec. 26)

__2020:__ 1st $100,000 **Small Wonder S**, 5½ fur., Del.-bred or certified, 2-year-old fillies, Delaware, Sept. 26; $100,000 **Smart Halo S**, 6 fur., 2-year-old fillies, Laurel, Nov. 14; $100,000 **Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship S**, 7 fur., registered Md.-bred 2-year-old fillies, Laurel, Dec. 5; $100,000 **Gin Talking S**, 7 fur., 2-year-old fillies, Laurel, Dec. 26; 2nd **Maryland Million Lassie S**.

The Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship was one of four stakes wins on the year for Street Lute, and proved a chance to turn the tables on Miss Nondescript, winner by a neck in their previous start in the Maryland Million Lassie Stakes. That was Street Lute's only loss of the year.

The Lassie duo ran side-by-side early in the Juvenile Filly Championship, rating off the pace set by Liam's Missy, but soon Street Lute was making a move as Miss Nondescript retreated.

Late runners Juror Number Four, Maxine's Tap Room and Buckey's Charm gave chase as Street Lute opened up at the top of the stretch, but the margin of victory was 1¾ lengths as the winner covered the 7 furlongs, her first time at the distance, in 1:24.83, faster than the boys ran one race later.

Owned by Lucky 7 Stables and trained by Jerry Robb, who purchased her for $10,500 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale, Street Lute came back to win the Gin Talking Stakes in her final start of the year.

Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman, the chestnut filly is the second foal out of Alottalute (by Midnight Lute), and her only starter. ❧



Maryland-bred Stakes Winners



NYRA/Susie Raisher

Pete's Play Call takes Aqueduct's Gravesend Stakes

Michael Dubb's Pete's Play Call kicked off the new year in Aqueduct's $100,000 Gravesend Stakes Jan. 2, scoring by 2½ lengths.

After closing out last season with a triumph in a 6-furlong optional claimer at Aqueduct in late October, where he was taken by trainer Rudy Rodriguez and Dubb for $62,500, Pete's Play Call came into the Gravesend as the fourth choice in the five-horse field. He broke quickly to push Happy Farm through an opening quarter-mile in :23.09, hit the half-mile mark in front by a head in :46.99, opened up in the stretch, then held off a late challenge from Stan the Man.

"He's a hard-knocking horse," Rodriguez said. "He's been doing very well since we claimed him. I thought we paid top dollar for him, but seeing him working in the morning, it looked like he was worth every penny."

Completing 6½ furlongs in 1:17.63, Pete's Play Call secured the second stakes win of his career, following the Bonapaw Stakes at Fair Grounds in December 2019 in his stakes debut as a 6-year-old.

Bred by Mr. and Mrs. Charles McGinnes, Pete's Play Call was purchased as a yearling for $90,000 by Mark Glatt at the 2014 Keeneland September sale. Starting out at Santa Anita in California before shipped to New York, he regularly competed in claimers and allowance races. For four consecutive years Pete's Play Call earned six figures, and banked $55,000 in the Gravesend. The 8-year-old has an overall record of 14-9-6 from 46 career starts, with $648,421 in earnings.

Pete's Play Call is out of the stakes-winning mare Taft Lil Queen, a daughter of Irish Open who has passed on her success to her offspring with nine winners from nine foals, five of them stakes performers. Pete's Play Call half-siblings include graded stakes winner Kiss to Remember and juvenile stakes winners El Viento and For Royalty–all Maryland-bred champions–and multiple stakes-placed The Prince. For Royalty, a $2.1 million broodmare sales horse, is the dam of Grade 1 winner Constellation. ❧

V. I. P. Ticket proves himself in A Huevo Stakes

V. I. P. Ticket showed up strong in the $50,000 A Huevo Stakes, a race postponed twice before it was offered Dec. 11 at Charles Town, winning by 4 lengths over North Atlantic to notch his first stakes win.

After a November trip to Aqueduct, where he finished third in an $82,000 allowance, the A.R.D. Racing Stables runner shipped to Charles Town where he has never been worse than third in eight starts. He broke from the four post and settled behind leader Opera Nite and favorite Runnin'toluvya. Moving through an opening quarter in :23.88 and half in :47.96, Runnin'toluvya had the lead after 6 furlongs in 1:13.69, but V. I. P. Ticket was gaining four-wide on the turn. He grabbed the lead, opened up down the stretch to hit the wire in 1:53.48 for 1⅛ miles. West Virginia Breeders Classic Stakes winner Awsome Faith finished third.

It was V. I. P. Ticket's second win of the year, following a head score in a 6½-furlong allowance at Charles Town in June. Just a month prior, he'd finished third in the Confucius Say Stakes behind Penguin Power and North At-



Coady Photography

lantic. The son of the late top West Virginia stallion Windsor Castle made 10 starts in 2020, starting at Laurel Park and hitting Delaware and Monmouth as well, and boosted his record to 6-3-10 in 26 career starts, for earnings of $221,548.

V. I. P. Ticket made six starts at 2, but wouldn't break his maiden until his ninth start the following March at Laurel.

The Jeremiah O'Dwyer trainee continued his 3-year-old success as he traveled to Charles Town and won his allowance debut less than three weeks later, part of a string of 10 top-three finishes that included a third in Pimlico's Sir Barton Stakes.

Off for nearly seven months between 3 and 4, V. I. P. Ticket returned last March and made at least one start a month from May through December.

Bred by Dr. Alexandro Rubim Dias, V. I. P. Ticket is the first foal out of Touring Hong Kong, a stakes-placed daughter of Cherokee's Boy. Her 4-year-old filly Award Wanted (by Macho Uno) won first-time out last June at Delaware Park. The mare has a 3-year-old Buffum colt named Award Nominated who has been working steadily at Laurel but has yet to start, missed to Congrats in 2019, and produced a Klimt filly last March. She was bred to Biblical for this year. ❧



Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races at Maryland tracks
September 1 to September 30, 2020

Breeder bonuses

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—GENNIE HIGHWAY: Sept. 19, 9th race, $3,135.

Robert S. Atkinson—ASHARA: Sept. 19, 2nd race, $1,732.50.

Robert Atkinson and Mary Atkinson—ORTINOLA: Sept. 3, 2nd race, $997.50.

Lorna L. Baker and Thomas H. Michaels Jr.—LAKI: Sept. 5, 8th race, $2,750.

Barak Farm—DEEP RED: Sept. 12, 4th race, $1,237.50. OFFICER COUNTRY: Sept. 4, 5th race, $1,732.50; Sept. 17, 5th race, $4,702.50. ($7,672.50)

Estate of Earl Barnhart—LOVE YOU MUCH: Sept. 7, 6th race, $1,375. SOMEKINDOFMAGICIAN: Sept. 10, 6th race, $1,237.50. ($2,612.50)

Patricia Beck and Richard C. Beck—MY MOONSHINE: Sept. 7, 1st race, $3,135.

Richard F. Blue Jr.—HAIR OF THE DOG: Sept. 7, 10th race, $605. PRINCE PERE: Sept. 25, 4th race, $1,732.50. RISING PERRY: Sept. 18, 2nd race, $797.50. ($3,135)

Richard Blue Sr. and Ann Merryman—RAILMASTER: Sept. 24, 7th race, $1,155.

Bonita Farm—CALYPSO GHOST: Sept. 17, 2nd race, $787.50.

Bowman and Higgins Stable and Dr. Brooke Bowman—UNREQUITED LOVE: Sept. 25, 3rd race, $2,205.

Bowman and Higgins Stable and Cary Frommer—MONDAY MORNING QB: Sept. 7, 7th race, $2,750.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—ZIP THE LIP: Sept. 12, 3rd race, $907.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—GREEN EYES: Sept. 11, 7th race, $907.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—CLAIRE'S DARLING: Sept. 3, 3rd race, $1,155.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Milton P. Higgins III—HEART HERO: Sept. 7, 10th race, $1,155.

Christine E. Bricker—RONA: Sept. 3, 1st race, $1,732.50.

Dorsey Brown and Richard Palmer—MONA LUNA: Sept. 26, 10th race, $2,205.

Buckingham Farm—I LOVE YOU: Sept. 12, 7th race, $1,312.50.

Deborah A. Butts—KICKSTARTER: Sept. 18, 9th race, $1,155.

William Andrew Campbell—SEVEN ON THE ROCKS: Sept. 11, 5th race, $797.50.

Christine Clagett and Leslie Elizabeth Wilson—MY SUPER SALLY: Sept. 18, 1st race, $495.

Henry S. Clark III—GLENGAR: Sept. 24, 2nd race, $787.50.

Classic Thoroughbred XXIX—JUROR NUMBER FOUR: Sept. 11, 7th race, $4,702.50.

Randy L. Cohen and Alyse L. Cohen—TOUGHEST 'OMBRE: Sept. 10, 6th race, $2,362.50.

Country Life Farm—MAYAN QUEEN: Sept. 19, 9th race, $605.

Country Life Farm and Broken Trust Fund LLC—WICKED PRANKSTER: Sept. 7, 2nd race, $1,417.50; Sept. 25, 6th race, $2,100. ($3,517.50)

Country Life Farm and Fifteen Moons LLC—FIFTEEN ROYALS: Sept. 10, 4th race, $5,985.

Country Life Farm and Fleet and Fancy LLC—FORFIFTYFIVEROCKET: Sept. 17, 6th race, $1,207.50.

Country Life Farm and Mrs. J.W.Y. Martin Jr.—EARNED IT: Sept. 3, 5th race, $1,102.50; Sept. 24, 5th race, $577.50. ($1,680)

Country Roads Ltd.—BURFORD: Sept. 12, 2nd race, $687.50. ODDS ON: Sept. 12, 2nd race, $3,562.50. WINSTON'S WAY: Sept. 4, 6th race, $412.50. ($4,662.50)

Crystal Park Stables Inc.—CAROLINA ICE: Sept. 4, 8th race, $4,987.50.

Dark Hollow Farm—BETCHA BY GOLLY: Sept. 26, 2nd race, $5,700. TAUBER: Sept. 10, 2nd race, $770. ($6,470)

Dark Hollow Farm and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Davidov—COMBAT QUEEN: Sept. 17, 9th race, $962.50.

Dr. Morgan Dove and Karin Wurttemberger—HALFINTHEWRAPPER: Sept. 25, 1st race, $2,565.

Dragon's Lair Farm LLC—LIMITED VIEW: Sept. 12, 4th race, $6,412.50.

Everest Stables Inc.—NIGHTLIFE: Sept. 4, 8th race, $1,400.

Joan Parker Everett—GIFTED HEART: Sept. 12, 4th race, $2,362.50.

Christopher J. Feifarek—OUR STAR: Sept. 12, 7th race, $687.50.

Mrs. Janon Fisher III—FAIRY WISH: Sept. 5, 11th race, $3,990.

Fitzhugh LLC—LOOKIN DYNAMIC: Sept. 7, 3rd race, $1,155.

Paul L. Fowler Jr.—TAPPIN CAT: Sept. 10, 7th race, $1,292.50.

Charles A. Frock—TAM CHAR: Sept. 26, 5th race, $1,417.50.

Scott C. Fuchs—NO FOOLING DUDE: Sept. 10, 8th race, $605.

Germania Farms Inc—GALLINELLA: Sept. 7, 4th race, $1,207.50.

Glenangus Farm LLC—FIRTH: Sept. 12, 7th race, $3,562.50.

Greycross Stable LLC—CITY BADGER: Sept. 7, 10th race, $3,135.

Tiffany Harrison and Justin Harrison—SAN ANTONE: Sept. 25, 6th race, $5,700.

Nancy B. Heil—KARAN'S NOTION: Sept. 11, 8th race, $2,205; Sept. 25, 7th race, $1,155. ($3,360)

Hickory Ridge Farm—CAREY TIMES: Sept. 12, 8th race, $4,987.50.

Hillwood Stable LLC—REASSURED: Sept. 12, 3rd race, $1,732.50.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Holt—QUEEN OF TOMORROW: Sept. 19, 7th race, $962.50.

Michael and Debbie Horning—MINT GAME: Sept. 18, 6th race, $605.

Ann B. Jackson—ARTFUL SPLATTER: Sept. 5, 2nd race, $2,750.

R. Larry Johnson—I'D LIKE TO KNOW: Sept. 4, 4th race, $742.50; Sept. 26, 3rd race, $3,847.50. —KEEPER IN SPITE: Sept. 5, 3rd race, $605. KING ALAN: Sept. 7, 2nd race, $742.50. NEVER ENOUGH TIME: Sept. 5, 4th race, $8,250. NO MO LADY: Sept. 7, 5th race, $2,750. OLDIES BUT GOODIES: Sept. 26, 8th race, $6,412.50. SO STREET: Sept. 7, 6th race, $2,750. STAR OF SHANGHAI: Sept. 26, 5th race, $742.50. THUNDERINTHEVALLEY: Sept. 18, 1st race, $945. ($27,787.50)

R. Larry Johnson and Legacy Farm—GONE HOME: Sept. 18, 3rd race, $412.50.

Harry Kassap LLC—QUIET IMAGINATION: Sept. 17, 9th race, $1,837.50.

Carol A. Kaye—AIR TOKEN: Sept. 11, 2nd race, $3,990; Sept. 19, 8th race, $1,155. BACK CHARGE: Sept. 5, 7th race, $1,155. CAN THE QUEEN: Sept. 26, 6th race, $5,985. CHARM CITY BAND: Sept. 4, 5th race, $4,702.50. SMOKIN HOT FACTOR: Sept. 11, 6th race, $3,562.50. ($20,550)

Gordon Keys—GRATEFUL BRED: Sept. 24, 7th race, $5,985.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—LADY FOX: Sept. 12, 9th race, $605.

Fred T. Lewis Sr. DVM—TRICKY LION: Sept. 24, 4th race, $787.50.

Little Man Farm—NIC NIC BOOM: Sept. 4, 7th race, $495; Sept. 19, 3rd race, $495. ($990)

Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—CAMPARI: Sept. 24, 2nd race, $412.50. FEATURE ACT: Sept. 11, 3rd race, $945. ($1,357.50)

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

MARYLAND RACING COMMISSION
300 East Towsontown Boulevard
Towson, MD 21286

January 10, 2021

Dear MHBA Breeder/Owner Members:

At the December meeting of the Maryland Racing Commission the plan submitted by the Maryland Bred Race Fund Advisory Committee was approved. The plan calls for the continuance of the Overnight Breeders Bonuses to remain at 25%, Stallion Bonuses at 8.33%, Stakes Breeder Bonuses at 13.75% and Stakes Stallion Bonuses at 4.58% through June 30, 2021. These percentages are based on current financial projections and are subject to change.

The Maryland Racing Commission will continue to monitor the revenue streams to the Maryland Bred Race Fund from the continuance of live racing, simulcast of the MJC racing signal and commissions generated from VLTs. We are expecting the Triple Crown Series races to run on their historical dates this year which will allow us to forecast a brighter financial future for the final six months of 2021.

The Maryland Horse Breeders Association will distribute Breeder and Stallion Bonus checks after Truesdail Laboratories notifies the State Stewards the races have cleared testing procedures. Checks will be distributed on a monthly basis.

Stay safe and have a Happy and Healthy 2021.

Kind regards,

David Hayden

Maryland Racing Commission
Chair, Maryland Bred Race Fund Advisory Committee

mike.hopkins@maryland.gov | 410-296-9682 | www.labor.maryland.gov

Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—LIVE AID: Sept. 17, 1st race, $770. CORDMAKER: Sept. 5, 6th race, $2,750.

Marathon Farm Inc.—ABUELO PAPS: Sept. 12, 8th race, $962.50. MAYBE AN OMEN: Sept. 4, 8th race, $1,400. ($2,362.50)

Daniel E. Marconi—GALERIO: Sept. 17, 4th race, $5,985.

William Meister and Julie Arbogast—ZEN PI: Sept. 18, 5th race, $1,417.50; Sept. 26, 3rd race, $1,417.50. ($2,835)

Edwin Merryman and Adena Springs—AWESOME JAZZ: Sept. 5, 11th race, $770.

The Estate of Robert L. Miller—LOOKIN FOR CANDY: Sept. 5, 3rd race, $1,155.

Mill Hill Stable LLC—MILLIE CHILD: Sept. 5, 3rd race, $3,135.

Bryan B. Minnich—NETTI GIRL: Sept. 3, 3rd race, $3,135.

Kevin P. Morgan—MR. CHESAPEAKECITY: Sept. 17, 6th race, $632.50. MR. D'ANGELO: Sept. 17, 8th race, $2,205. ($2,837.50)

Morgan's Ford Farm—GOTTAWAY: Sept. 26, 1st race, $412.50.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2020

(through December 31)

1. Knicks Go $608,440	11. Eastern Bay $190,600
2. Harpers First Ride . . . 495,623	12. Artful Splatter. 188,717
3. Field Pass. 450,143	13. Stroll Smokin 179,487
4. Sharing. 362,451	14. Karan's Notion 173,131
5. Street Lute 290,220	15. Fiya. 171,526
6. Laki. 241,030	16. Air Token. 169,647
7. Galerio 229,425	17. Whereshetoldmetogo 151,625
8. Never Enough Time. . 201,131	18. Double Crown 150,625
9. Project Whiskey 199,280	19. Hello Beautiful 150,552
10. Pete's Play Call 190,645	20. Majestic Reason 150,000

Edmund T. Mudge IV—AMPLIO ESQUEMA: Sept. 25, 2nd race, $1,732.50. LA SILUETA: Sept. 17, 10th race, $3,135. ($4,867.50)

Audrey R. Murray—POUNDING MUSIC: Sept. 25, 2nd race, $907.50.

Nancy Lee Farms—EASTERN BAY: Sept. 5, 8th race, $8,250. SING A VERSE: Sept. 4, 6th race, $787.50; Sept. 19, 1st race, $945. ($9,982.50)

Leo Nechamkin and Dennis Jankiewicz—BALTIMORE BUD: Sept. 25, 4th race, $907.50.

Cynthia Pence and Philip Spingler—NICK PAPAGIORGIO: Sept. 25, 9th race, $4,387.50.

Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—FACTORINTHEHEAT: Sept. 3, 1st race, $4,702.50; Sept. 26, 6th race, $2,205. ($6,907.50)

Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—ALPHA QUEUE: Sept. 10, 3rd race, $1,100.JAXON TRAVELER: Sept. 25, 8th race, $5,700. ($6,800)

Vivian E. Rall—EPIC IDEA: Sept. 11, 4th race, $2,362.50.

R.D.M. Racing Stable—WHATS THE CHANCES: Sept. 26, 3rd race, $742.50.

Charles J. Reed and Michael Zanella—PATRIOTIC PUNCH: Sept. 11, 9th race, $3,847.50; Sept. 25, 10th race, $3,990. ($7,837.50)

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Reveley—S W BRIAR ROSE: Sept. 3, 8th race, $1,512.50; Sept. 19, 4th race, $2,887.50. ($4,400)

Roland Farm—SEVILLA SANGRIA: Sept. 11, 9th race, $1,417.50.

Timothy J. Rooney—MISCHIEFS MODEL: Sept. 11, 7th race, $1,732.50.

Sagamore Farm LLC—HARPERS FIRST RIDE: Sept. 5, 6th race, $8,250. POLISHED COPPER: Sept. 3, 2nd race, $2,707.50; Sept. 25, 5th race, $2,565. QUIET COMPANY: Sept. 19, 7th race, $4,987.50. RULE YOURSELF: Sept. 3, 7th race, $577.50. ($19,087.50)

Shamrock Farm—RAN CHAR: Sept. 12, 9th race, $3,135.

Skeedattle Associates—HOT CHOICE: Sept. 19, 2nd race, $4,702.50.

John D. Stuart—BELFOUR: Sept. 4, 2nd race, $3,562.50.

Sweet Spirits Stables LLC—FILLE D'ESPRIT: Sept. 25, 1st race, $945.

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—GIRL NEXT DOOR: Sept. 18, 7th race, $2,137.50. GIRLS LOVE ME: Sept. 10, 1st race, $522.50. ($2,660)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—CLOSERTOTHEHEART: Sept. 24, 6th race, $2,100.

Thornmar Farm LLC—COCONUT CAKE: Sept. 17, 9th race, $4,987.50. JUST CHILL OUT: Sept. 18, 6th race, $3,135. ($8,122.50)

Mark Toothaker and Dan White—GREASEDLIGHTNING: Sept. 12, 1st race, $787.50.

Robert S. Vukelic—CROUCHELLI: Sept. 17, 4th race, $2,205.

Willow Oaks Stable LLC—ABSOLVED: Sept. 12, 8th race, $1,837.50; Sept. 25, 7th race, $2,205. ($4,042.50)

Mrs. Frank P. Wright—CANNON'S ROAR: Sept. 25, 9th race, $4,387.50.

ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—STEADY LOVE: Sept. 19, 7th race, $1,837.50.

Stallion bonuses

BALTIMORE BOB (Baltimore Bud: Sept. 25, 4th race, $302.38): Robert Gerczak.

BANDBOX (Artful Splatter: Sept. 5, 2nd race, $916. Coconut Cake: Sept. 17, 9th race, $1,661.84. Girl Next Door: Sept. 18, 7th race, $712.22. Queen of Tomorrow: Sept. 19, 7th race, $320.71. Reassured: Sept. 12, 3rd race, $577.27): Bandbox Syndicate—$4,188.04.

BOURBON COURAGE (San Antone: Sept. 25, 6th race, $1,899.24): Bourbon Courage.

BUFFUM (My Super Sally: Sept. 18, 1st race, $164.93. Steady Love: Sept. 19, 7th race, $612.26): Buffum Syndicate—$777.19.

CAL NATION (Earned It: Sept. 3, 5th race, $367.35; Sept. 24, 5th race, $192.42): Cal Nation Syndicate—$559.77.

CUBA (Laki: Sept. 5, 8th race, $916): J&S Stables LLC.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Gone Home: Sept. 18, 3rd race, $137.45. Keeper in Spite: Sept. 5, 3rd race, $201.59. Mr. Chesapeakecity: Sept. 17, 6th race, $210.75. Odds On: Sept. 12, 2nd race, $1,187.03. Unrequited Love: Sept. 25, 3rd race, $734.71. Whats the Chances: Sept. 26, 3rd race, $247.40): R. Larry Johnson—$2,718.93.

ETCHED (Calypso Ghost: Sept. 17, 2nd race, $262.40): Bonita Farm Stallion Partnership.

FREEDOM CHILD (Glengar: Sept. 24, 2nd race, $262.40. Limited View: Sept. 12, 4th race, $2,136.65. Millie Child: Sept. 5, 3rd race, $1,044.58): Freedom Child Syndicate—$3,443.63.

FRIESAN FIRE (Gallinella: Sept. 7, 4th race, $402.34. Hot Choice: Sept. 19, 2nd race, $1,566.87): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$1,969.21.

GIACOMO (Rona: Sept. 3, 1st race, $577.27): Giacomo Syndicate.

GOLDEN LAD (Air Token: Sept. 11, 2nd race, $1,329.47; Sept. 19, 8th race, $384.85): Golden Lad Syndicate—$1,714.32.

GREAT NOTION (Closertotheheart: Sept. 24, 6th race, $699.72. Epic Idea: Sept. 11, 4th race, $787.19. Fille d'Esprit: Sept. 25, 1st race, $314.87. Grateful Bred: Sept. 24, 7th race, $1,994.20. Halfinthewrapper: Sept. 25, 1st race, $854.66. Karan's Notion: Sept. 11, 8th race, $734.71; Sept. 25, 7th race, $384.85. Railmaster: Sept. 24, 7th race, $384.85. Sing a Verse: Sept. 4, 6th race, $262.40; Sept. 19, 1st race, $314.87. Tam Char: Sept. 26, 5th race, $472.31. Zen Pi: Sept. 18, 5th race, $472.31; Sept. 26, 3rd race, $472.31): Great Notion Syndicate—$8,149.25.

HANGOVER KID (Hair of the Dog: Sept. 7, 10th race, $201.59. Pounding Music: Sept. 25, 2nd race, $302.38): Hangover Kid Syndicate—$503.97.

IMAGINING (Claire's Darling: Sept. 3, 3rd race, $384.85. Green Eyes: Sept. 11, 7th race, $302.38. Heart Hero: Sept. 7, 10th race, $384.85. Lady Fox: Sept. 12, 9th race, $201.59. Monday Morning Qb: Sept. 7, 7th race, $916. Quiet Imagination: Sept. 17, 9th race, $612.26. Zip the Lip: Sept. 12, 3rd race, $302.38): Imagining Syndicate—$3,104.31.

LION HEARTED (Tricky Lion: Sept. 24, 4th race, $262.40): Lion Hearted Syndicate.

MOSLER (Wicked Prankster: Sept. 7, 2nd race, $472.31; Sept. 25, 6th race, $699.72): Country Life Farm, Adele Dilschneider and Seth Hancock—$1,172.03.

NICANOR (Nic Nic Boom: Sept. 4, 7th race, $164.93; Sept. 19, 3rd race, $164.93. Ran Char: Sept. 12, 9th race, $1,044.58): Nicanor Syndicate—$1,374.44.

NOT FOR LOVE (Love You Much: Sept. 7, 6th race, $458): Not For Love Syndicate.

ORIENTATE (Cannon's Roar: Sept. 25, 9th race, $1,461.92. No Fooling Dude: Sept. 10, 8th race, $201.59. Prince Pere: Sept. 25, 4th race, $577.27. Rising Perry: Sept. 18, 2nd race, $265.73): Orientate Syndicate—$2,506.51.

OUTFLANKER (Crouchelli: Sept. 17, 4th race, $734.71. Nick Papagiorgio: Sept. 25, 9th race, $1,461.92): Outflanker Syndicate—$2,196.63.

REDEEMED (Gottaway: Sept. 26, 1st race, $137.45): Redeemed Syndicate.

ROCK SLIDE (Seven On the Rocks: Sept. 11, 5th race, $265.73): Shamrock Farms.

SEVILLE (GER) (Amplio Esquema: Sept. 25, 2nd race, $577.27. Gennie Highway: Sept. 19, 9th race, $1,044.58. I Love You: Sept. 12, 7th race, $437.33. La Silueta: Sept. 17, 10th race, $1,044.58. Mint Game: Sept. 18, 6th race, $201.59. Mr. d'Angelo: Sept. 17, 8th race, $734.71. Sevilla Sangria: Sept. 11, 9th race, $472.31): Seville Syndicate—$4,512.37.

STREET MAGICIAN (Burford: Sept. 12, 2nd race, $229.08. I'd Like to Know: Sept. 4, 4th race, $247.40; Sept. 26, 3rd race, $1,281.99. Somekindofmagician: Sept. 10, 6th race, $412.34. So Street: Sept. 7, 6th race, $916. Winston's Way: Sept. 4, 6th race, $137.45): R. Larry Johnson—$3,224.26.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Fairy Wish: Sept. 5, 11th race, $1,329.47. Forfiftyfiverocket: Sept. 17, 6th race, $402.34. Gifted Heart: Sept. 12, 4th race, $787.19. Ortinola: Sept. 3, 2nd race, $332.37): Country Life Farm and Spendthrift—$2,851.37.

TRITAP (Tappin Cat: Sept. 10, 7th race, $430.66): Tritap Syndicate.

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER



- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **February 2021** -

In This Issue

New Jersey-bred No Cents finishes year on a tear

By Bill Finley



JIM MCCUE

There was nothing easy about this one. New Jersey-bred No Cents broke slowly, battled down the stretch, crossed the wire a mere neck in front and then had to withstand an inquiry after he came over in the stretch and appeared to impede Singlino in the Dec. 26 Heft Stakes at Laurel. But he got the job done. For the homebred from the stable of the Haskell sisters, Hope Jones and Isabelle de Tomaso, that was pretty much the story throughout the year. After finishing second in his debut, he finished up his 2-year-old campaign by winning his next four starts, a streak that also included the James F. Lewis III Stakes at Laurel.

"He's a very useful horse," said trainer Cal Lynch. "He's a Jersey-bred and I am happy for the owners because they support Jersey racing quite a bit."

There are a number of immediate options for a horse like No Cents but Lynch has decided to give the son of Goldencents the rest of the

winter off. He will spend several weeks at the Webb Carroll Training Center in South Carolina before resurfacing in the spring. Despite the two stakes wins, one at 6 furlongs, the other at 7 furlongs, Lynch does not see No Cents as a Triple Crown candidate. He plans to keep him sprinting next year.

"We have stayed at 6 and 7 furlongs because if it's not broke don't fix it," the trainer said. "He was doing everything right, so we just kept him sprinting. I think a one-turn mile would also suit him. He's not one dimensional. He doesn't have to be on the lead and he doesn't need to come from way out of it. He's very tactical and he can lay close and can still finish for you. He's a nice horse to have, but I don't think he's a Triple Crown-type horse. So we'll just take him around and try to make some money with him and pick our spots."

Lynch, who is based in Maryland, didn't see this coming. He described No Cents as a "big dude" and thought that it might take some time to get him to the races.

"When we started working him early on we didn't know if he was going to run as a 2-year-old or not," he said. "The owners said to just take your time, do whatever he allows you to do. Then all of a sudden in his last three or four works before first time he ran at Monmouth he started putting it all together so we went ahead and ran him up there."

No Cents debuted Aug. 29 in a Jersey-bred maiden race run over a sloppy Monmouth surface. He had a rough trip, breaking slowly and steadying, and had to settle for second. He returned four weeks later and romped in another maiden.

Lynch picked an open allowance race at Monmouth for No Cents' next start and the horse showed his class, winning by a neck over Heir Port, with Singlino third. The James F. Lewis loomed as the biggest test of the young colt's career. The competitors included Dalton, who was coming off a nose defeat behind Jersey-bred Pickin Time in the Smoke Glacken Stakes, and Kenny Had a Notion, a winner of two straight stakes. Turning in a career best Beyer number of 81, No Cents prevailed by 1¼ lengths.

"As soon as I tipped outside of him, I just gave him a nice target to run at," winning jockey Trevor McCarthy said after the Lewis win. "When I wanted him to finish up strong, he did, and when I wanted him to take a little bit of a break at the wire when I knew I kind of had it, he settled down. He's very push-button. He does everything you want him to do."

During the year No Cents has seemed to improve with each start, which gives Lynch confidence that he will have a productive 3-year-old year.

"He's not fully grown by any means," he said. "He's very growthy behind and he's been catching up all year. We're going to let him grow up a little bit."

No Cents is the latest success story from Jones and de Tomaso, who have emerged as the leading owners and breeders of New Jersey-breds. They are daughters of Amory L. Haskell, the first president and chairman of Monmouth Park, and have been unwavering supporters of the New Jersey-bred program. No Cents led a stable that earned $385,775 and also included Jersey-bred winners Pianzi and Romney Marsh. De Tomaso also owned Jersey-bred star Irish War Cry, winner of the Grade 2 Holy Bull and Wood Memorial in 2017, and third in the Belmont Stakes-G1. Lynch said they make his job easy.

"They are phenomenal owners," he said. "There's no beating around the bush with them. They let you do whatever you want to do. You do the right thing by the horse every time and they have no issue with that. They are very patient and, for me, that's the key. We deal with a lot of young horses and patience is the absolute key to the babies.

"They're breeders and they're not in the game to buy and sell or turn horses over. They want to see their horses develop and have nice horses. They had Irish War Cry, so they've been to the big dances, so it's not like they don't know what is involved and what it takes to get there."

So, that's the plan. . . let No Cents develop further and hope he can take even bigger steps in 2021. He appears to be on his way.

Army Mule Offer

St. Elias Stables is offering members of the TBANJ an exciting opportunity to breed to Army Mule, who is standing the 2021 breeding season at Hill 'n' Dale Farms for $7,500. A TBANJ member who is interested in breeding to Army Mule and foaling in New Jersey will receive the stud fee for $5,000 and all shipping expenses will be paid for the round trip to Kentucky.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this great offer please contact the TBANJ office at 732-542-8880 or via email to njbreds@gmail.com.

Stallion Season Auction set for Feb. 6

The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey (TBANJ) will conduct its annual Stallion Season Auction beginning on Saturday, Feb. 6 and ending Monday, Feb. 8.

The online auction is being hosted on the Starquine bidding platform at www.starquine.com. All participants must be registered with Starquine prior to bidding. Starquine offers an automatic bidding process that allows participants to enter the maximum amount they are willing to pay for a season. Starquine then keeps bidding on the buyer's behalf until the maximum amount is reached or high bidder. Each season's conditions will be posted as part of their auction page on Starquine.

All proceeds from the auction go to the TBANJ, which uses the funds for promoting the Thoroughbred breeding industry in New Jersey.

Stallion seasons will be added until the auction begins Feb. 6. A complete list of available seasons will be listed on www.njbreds.com.

Please contact the TBANJ office at 732-542-8880 for additional information.

Leading New Jersey-bred Incentive Award Earners in 2020

Name	*Breeder*	*Owner*	*Stallion Owner*	*Total Earnings*
Colonial Farms	$125,571.50	$ 700.00	$12,377.50	$138,649.00
Law Legacy Stables LLC	58,162.00	1,540.00	24,894.50	84,596.50
Joe-Dan Farm Inc.	53,718.59	0.00	28,196.06	81,914.66
John Bowers Jr.	52485.00	12,790.00	0.00	65,275.00
Holly Crest Farm	60,906.25	0.00	0.00	60,906.25
Hope H. Jones & Isabelle De Tomaso	53.937.50	4,200.00	0.00	58,137.50
Patricia Generazio	27,332.50	882.00	15,938.75	44,153.25
Edward Roy Rosen & John Bowers Jr.	41,352.50	0.00	0.00	41,352.50
G J Stables	35,640.63	0.00	0.00	35,640.63
Joseph A. Ioia	32,000.00	0.00	0.00	32,000.00
Mildred Fleming	31,256.25	0.00	0.00	31,256.25
Joan Milne	29,437.50	0.00	0.00	29,437.50
Wes Carter	26,245.00	0.00	0.00	26,245.00
Hope Haskell Jones	22,925.00	1,470.00	0.00	24,395.00
Hal Snowden Jr.	24,000.00	0.00	0.00	24,000.00
Isabelle De Tomaso	19,812.50	2,800.00	0.00	22,612.50
Quiet Winter Farm	22,648.00	0.00	0.00	22,648.00
Esher De Jong	21,615.00	0.00	0.00	21,615.00
Thomas Ryan	18,367.66	3,108.00	0.00	21,475.66
Reeve Schley III	19,825.16	630.00	0.00	20,868.75

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

2021 Membership Application

Member Information

NAME ______________________ SS#/FEDERAL I.D.# ______________________

ADDRESS ______________________ CITY ______________________

STATE __________ ZIP __________ COUNTY ______________________

TELEPHONE: ______________________ E-MAIL: ______________________

Membership Categories

Breeder ☐ A breeder member shall be a person who owns the required interest in a broodmare or registered stallion domiciled in New Jersey; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. A breeder member shall have voting rights.

Owner ☐ An owner member shall be a person, who owns a registered New Jersey bred; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. An owner member will not have voting rights.

Associate ☐ An associate member is a person who is interested in owning, breeding, or racing horses in the State of New Jersey or in fostering economic activity through the breeding, ownership and/or racing of horses in the State of New Jersey. An associate member will not have voting rights.

Date: ______________ Signature: ______________________________

Membership Dues

A check or money order for $65.00 must accompany this form. Spouses are encouraged to join the **TBANJ** under joint membership status. This fee would total $100.00 per couple. Each spouse must fill out a separate form to accompany the payment. Membership will be effective upon receipt and will be in force each calendar year and must be renewed annually.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
265 Hwy 36
Suite 1R
W. Long Branch, NJ 07764
(732) 542-8880 Fax: (732) 490-4732
email: njbreds@gmail.com

North Carolina
THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION
February 2021

President's message

Hello Members!

You should have received your membership renewal forms along with the other documents in the middle of December. I expect most of you returned them by now and nominated your horses for the 2020 Champion awards. If you haven't, time is running out. Your subscription to the *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* may experience a lapse if you delay much longer. Let me know if you need another set of forms so I can get them to you. So, I look forward to having you all rejoin the NCTA for 2021.

In the Fall of 2020, we welcomed three new fellow Thoroughbred enthusiasts to the organization. As North Carolina continues to attract those who relocate from other states with vital horseracing programs, they will hopefully find our association and choose to show their support by joining. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

One of my 2021 goals is to figure out how to update our website with current information to elicit a more impressive opinion from those who may come across it.

There is not much else to report. May 2021 be your best year ever.

–Rebecca Montaldo

Racing Recap



ADAM COGLIANESE

North Carolina-bred Ima Daredevil won at Gulfstream Park West in November.

Ima Daredevil (NC) (Daredevil out of Prom Dress, by Stephen Got Even) won at Gulfstream Park West Nov. 27 for breeder Frank Batten. A 3-year old filly facing older runners, she broke fourth from the gate, quickly overtook her rivals on the final turn, gained the lead in the stretch to win by a head going 6 ½ furlongs in 1:17.49.

Saints Marching In (Flashback out of Wicked Cricket, by Chapel Royal) won at Mountaineer Dec. 6 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 4-year-old gelding ran the mile in 1:42.23. Breaking fourth from the gate, the gelding moved forward on the backstretch drawing even with the leader on the far turn battling for position down the stretch to take the lead at the end to win by 1¼ lengths.

Dionysus' Chalice (Fiber Sonde out of Athena Gold, by Civilisation) won at Charles Town Dec. 11 for his fourth straight win for breeder Clint Lowry. The 5-year-old gelding broke second from the gate but quickly took the lead setting a fast pace. With urging, he won by 1¼ lengths.

P J's Ego (Freud out of Prime Jewel, by The Prime Minister) won at Charles Town Dec. 19 on a muddy track for breeder/owner Ken Orchard – Jet M Stables. The 4-year-old filly sat off the pace, staying close to the leader, until late in the stretch where she inched away to win by three-quarters of a length. She ran 4½ furlongs in :52.80.

Hitting the Board November 25–December 24

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	Result
27-Nov	Ima Daredevil (NC)	Gulfstream Park West	Bred by Frank Batten	**WINNER!**
27-Nov	Princess Janet	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Ken Orchard - Jet M Stables	3rd
30-Nov	Liberty Fire	Mountaineer Park	Bred by Beth Muirhead	3rd
6-Dec	Saints Marching In	Mountaineer Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	**WINNER!**
6-Dec	Dixieland Traffic	Mountaineer Park	Owned by Richard Wolf-DRW Racing, LLC	2nd
11-Dec	Dionysus' Chalice	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	**WINNER!**
11-Dec	Cayenne Creek	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	2nd
12-Dec	Sag Harbor	Turfway Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
18-Dec	Secret Zar	Aqueduct	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
19-Dec	Princess Janet	Charles Town	Bred & owned by ken Orchard - Jet M Stables	3rd
19-Dec	PJ's Ego	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Ken Orchard - Jet M Stables	WINNER!
21-Dec	Saints Marching In	Mountaineer Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
22-Dec	Arch Appeal	Mountaineer Park	Owned by Richard Wolf-DRW Racing, LLC	2nd
22-Dec	Humor Controller	Remington Park	Bred by Frank Batten	2nd
24-Dec	Ima Daredevil (NC)	Gulfstream Park	Bred by Frank Batten	2nd

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North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

(910) 261-7595
www.ncthoroughbred.com
ncthoroughbred@gmail.com
P.O. Box 76, Fayetteville, NC 28302

Rebecca Montaldo, *president*
Joanne Dew, *secretary*
Jimmy Teal, *treasurer*
Directors: Elizabeth Houck, Vince Mathews, Chris Stiller

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

2021 MEMBERSHP FORM

NAME_______________________________SPOUSE_________________

FARM____

MAILING ADDRESS____

CITY____________________STATE_________________ZIP_____________

E-MAIL____

PHONE: HOME__________________ CELL_______________WORK_________

☐Jr. MEMBER - AGE 25 UNDER @ -0
☐FARM @ $80.00
☐CORPORATE SPONSOR @ $250.00
☐SPONSOR @ $140.00
☐INDIVIDUAL @ $55.00
☐NON-PROFIT HORSE ASSOCIATIONS @ $20.00) (covers cost of magazines)

Membership includes subscriptions to Thoroughbred Mid-Atlantic Magazine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Involvement in Thoroughbred Industry
(Please check any or all pertaining to you)

☐Breeder ☐Racing ☐ Steeplechase ☐Boarding ☐Foaling
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PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

February 2021
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

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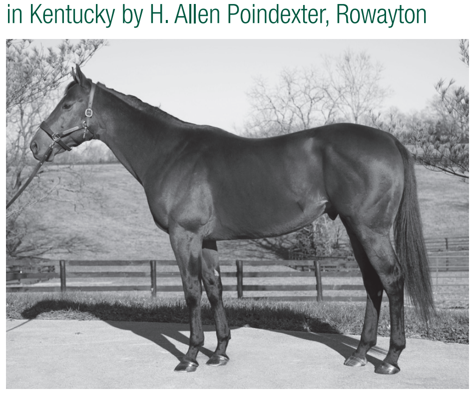
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Growing Sire Power in PA

The sire power in Pennsylvania continues to grow! Below is a brief introduction to the new stallions standing in PA for the 2021 season. Check out all of our great sires in the PA Stallion & Boarding Farm Directory, available online at pabred.com.

Rowayton

Rowayton, a 5-year-old Grade 1-placed son of two-time leading sire Into Mischief, has been retired and has entered stud at Glenn and Becky Brok's Diamond B Farm in Mohrsville in 2021. A six-figure 2017 Saratoga sales yearling bred in Kentucky by H. Allen Poindexter, Rowayton



won a maiden special weight in his 2-year-old debut at Del Mar and next out ran second to that year's eventual champion Game Winner in the Grade 1 Del Mar Futurity. He completed the year of three starts with a third in the Grade 1 American Pharoah Stakes. A winner at 3, the bay finished third behind Code of Honor in Belmont's Grade 3 Dwyer and in his final start of the year was fourth in a rip-roaring finish in the Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens at Saratoga, in four-horse photo with Mind Control, Hog Creek Hustle and Shancelot, where he finished a neck behind the winner Mind Control. Campaigned by OXO Equine LLC, Rowayton retires with earnings of $252,130 in nine starts. Rowayton is out of the Indian Charlie mare Rosemonde, a half-sister to multiple Canadian champion Miss Mischief. Says Brok, "Rowayton displayed his brilliant speed winning at Belmont Park where he was only two-fifths over the track record, blazing six and a half furlongs in 1:14.2 when he was trained by Don Chatlos. His sire is enjoying incredible success and being from the family of champion Proud Spell, we feel like he will be a very important addition to the stallion ranks in the Mid-Atlantic region." Rowayton's family also includes Grade 1-winning juvenile and sire J P's Gusto, Mexican champion Letruska, a 2020 graded stakes winner in the U.S., and Grade 1 winner Imaginary Lady. Rowayton enters stud for an introductory fee of $5,000 and a breeding incentive plan for breeders to earn a lifetime breeding rights is available.

Pat On the Back

Millionaire and top miler Pat On the Back has been added to the Godstone Farm roster in



Stallion Updates *continued from page 1*

Littlestown. The property of a partnership, the 7-year-old will stand his first season in 2021 for $3,500 live foal, with special consideration to approved mares. An eight-time stakes winner, Pat On the Back recorded nine wins in 30 starts, with four seconds and six thirds (all stakes), while amassing $1,144,545. He is the richest son of Congrats, one of the nation's top sires, to enter stud. A son of A.P. Indy, Congrats is the sire of 46 stakes winners, three millionaires. Pat On the Back had his biggest season in 2019, capturing Belmont Park's one-mile Kelso Handicap-G2 in 1:33.97, as well as the Affirmed Success and Commentator Stakes, the latter in 1:33.43 for the mile. A stakes winner every year from 2 to 5, from six furlongs to a mile and an eighth, he recorded rich scores in the $300,000 Empire Classic Handicap at 4 and the $250,000 Sleepy Hollow at 2. Pat On the Back is one of eight winners from eight starters for the Awesome Again mare Accomplished, also the dam of stakes winner and producer Sarah Accomplished. His second dam, the winning Copelan mare I'm in Celebration, produced 10 winners including stakes winners Nice to Know (19 wins, $421,556) and Cheers and Tears, both graded stakes-placed, as well as graded stakes-placed Brave Victory. Others found in the family include Grade 1 winner and sire Is Your Pleasure, Group 1 winner Little Baby Bear and graded stakes winner and track record setter Beautiful Bets.

Tight Ten



Tight Ten, a precocious son of Tapit, enters stud in 2021 at the beautiful new Mountain Springs Farm in Palmyra. A graded stakes-placed runner, he is bred on the same cross as leading second-crop and classic sire Constitution–both are by three-time leading sire Tapit and out of a Distorted Humor mare. After easily breaking his maiden first time out at Churchill Downs in wire-to-wire fashion by more than four lengths, Tight Ten ran second, beaten a length, in the historic Saratoga Special-G2 behind Call Paul after leading in mid-stretch. In his third career start, the Winchell Thoroughbreds homebred led nearly the entire trip of the mile and a sixteenth Iroquois S-G3 at Churchill Downs, just getting caught in the final strides by Cairo Cat to finish second. His final start at 2 came in the $2-million Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1, where he hit the inner rail shortly after the start and emerged with a torn hind end ligament. He returned to the winner's circle at 4 and retired with earnings of $132,369. Standing 16.1 hands with

A few words from the Executive Secretary



Breeding season begins in a couple of weeks and now is the time to get your mare ready for a PA Stallion. There's never been a better time to breed in Pennsylvania–50 percent PA-Sired, PA-Bred Breeder Awards for all maiden races, 1st through 3rd, run in Pennsylvania (25 percent for all other PA-Breds). The PA-Bred program has paid out an average of almost $30 million the last nine years, offering 400 restricted races and 23 restricted stakes annually. How's that for stability!

Remember, if you purchase a mare in foal at a public auction after Dec. 1, she must be brought into the state within 14 days of purchase through foaling (60 days if purchased at an overseas sale). During the foaling year the foal or its dam must spend at least 90 days in the state in order for that foal to be eligible to become a registered PA-Bred. You can also bring in your mare anytime, stay 60 consecutive days through foaling and breed back to a PA Sire. You can find that PA Sire in our new 2021 Stallion and Boarding Farm Directory–view or download a copy of the directory at www.pabred.com.

Don't forget to fill out your membership form online by March 31 in order to receive voting privileges, an invitation to PA Day at the Races and a free subscription to the Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred magazine.

Many of you have asked about the Breeder Awards and the possibility of a quicker turnaround. Well here it is–Rep. Christina Sappey will soon be introducing a bill that will allow the PHBA to issue the award checks. Your help contacting Legislators was the reason the Race Horse Development Trust Fund remained untouched in 2020. We need your help again! Please contact your representatives and ask them to sign on as co-sponsors to Rep. Sappey's bill. This would allow you to receive checks in 30-45 days instead of 90 days or more. We need bipartisan buy-in to make this happen, so please contact your representatives as soon as you can.

We wish all of our breeders and stallion owners the best of luck in 2021! Go PA!!

outstanding athletic conformation, Tight Ten is offered for an introductory fee of $2,500 live foal. Additional mares can be bred for $2,000 each. A lifetime breeding right will be awarded to breeders after booking four mares. Tight Ten is out of the winning mare Devils Humor; his second dam is multiple Grade 1 winner Fleet Renee (by Seattle Slew). Third dam is multiple graded winner Darien Miss. Tight Ten is nominated for the Breeders' Cup and is eligible for the Pennsylvania-bred program. He takes up residence at the new 200-acre Mountain Springs Farm. With facilities rivaling any in the state, the experienced horsemen at Mountain Springs Farm provide excellent mare and foal care at affordable rates.



Wicked Strong

Millionaire Wicked Strong has moved to Dr. William Solomon's Pin Oak Lane Farm in New Freedom to stand the 2021 season. The 10-year-old syndicated stallion, who previously stood at Spendthrift Farm in Lexington, Ky., will stand for $3,500, payable when the foal stands and nurses—discounts are available for multiple mares. "He's by far the leading second-crop sire in the Mid-Atlantic region," said Solomon of Wicked Strong, who ranks fourth among the region's sires on the general list in 2020 with more than $2.4 million in progeny earnings. "And he comes with 154 2-year-olds and yearlings, so I think his chances of succeeding are good for that reason. He also has nine stakes horses in his first two crops to race. All these things make him one of the most attractive sires in the Mid-Atlantic." A top-10 freshman sire nationally in 2019 by progeny earnings, Wicked Strong ranked second by number of winners with 26, one less than American Pharoah, Constitution and Tapiture. Among his first crop runners, now 4, are Evil Lyn, winner of Pimlico's Hilltop Stakes last October, and Wicked Runner, a stakes winner at 2 and 3 in Puerto Rico. In his second crop he has Grade 2 Remsen Stakes winner Brooklyn Strong, who won or placed in three stakes in four starts. Of Wicked Strong's 10 black-type horses, six earned black-type at 2. One of the top runners of his generation, Wicked Strong won the $1 million Wood Memorial Stakes-G1 in stakes-record time and captured Saratoga's Jim Dandy Stakes-G2 over Belmont Stakes-G1 winner Tonalist. Graded stakes-placed at 2 when third behind Honor Code in the Grade 2 Remsen, he was second by a nose to his stablemate V. E. Day the next summer in the Travers Stakes-G1. He turned in strong showings in the 2014 classics, finishing fourth after a tough trip in the Kentucky Derby-G1 won by California Chrome, and getting up to dead heat with California Chrome for fourth in the Belmont Stakes-G1 while finishing less than two lengths behind Tonalist. Wicked Strong competed in 14 consecutive stakes at 3 and 4, 10 of them Grade 1. During his 4-year-old season, he had four stakes-placings, including a second to Tonalist in the Jockey Club Gold Cup-G1 and a third behind Liam's Map in the Woodward Stakes-G1, and concluded his 19-start career with a fourth in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile-G1 won by Liam's Map. He is the richest son of top sire Hard Spun to stand at stud, with a record of 3-4-3 for earnings of $1,994,460. Wicked Strong has a pedigree with strong classic lines. His winning dam Moyne Abbey is by Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner Charismatic, who in turn is by Preakness winner Summer Squall. His family is filled with graded stakes winners including two-time Grade 1-winning millionaire Student Council; his dam is a half-sister to graded winners and Grade 1-placed Gulch Approval and Rusty Slipper as well as stakes winner and graded-placed Approval Rating.

Contact Information:

State Horse Racing Commission
Harrisburg, PA • 717-787-1942

Parx Racing
Bensalem, PA • 215-639-9000

Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course
Grantville, PA • 717-469-2211

Presque Isle Downs & Casino
Erie, PA • 866-374-3386

Pennsylvania HBPA
Grantville, PA • 717-469-2970

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
Bensalem, PA • 215-638-2012

THE PA-BRED PREMIUM
EARN MORE!
JOIN THE PHBA

Whether you are currently a breeder or an owner, or if you are just considering getting involved in this exciting industry, there are many reasons to join the PHBA. The PHBA is devoted to those involved in Pennsylvania's Thoroughbred breeding industry. A not-for-profit organization founded in 1948, we provide a number of services to members, including informational assistance, educational opportunities and a variety of social events.

The goal of the organization is to advocate on behalf of the state's breeding industry. We are mandated by statute as administrator of the Pennsylvania Breeding Fund program, and as official registrar of the Pennsylvania-Bred roster of eligible program participants.

Working with industry leaders over the years, PHBA has achieved several goals that have brought reform and benefits to breeders, owners, racetracks and the public. The PHBA is vital to everyone involved in breeding throughout Pennsylvania. Your support and participation can help Pennsylvania's breeding industry continue to grow and prosper.


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ASSOCIATION

South Carolina
Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

Racing Across the Nation

While 2020 was a very trying year due to Covid -19 and the resulting pandemic, the Thoroughbred industry continued to bravely conduct business as close to "normal" as possible. There was a cutback in racing opportunities. In spite of this, horses that went through the breaking process and prepared for their racing careers in South Carolina, were well represented in stakes races far and wide. Between Nov. 20 and Dec. 20, five entered the winner's circle following black-type events.

The day after Thanksgiving, Nov. 27, Arklow went off as the favorite against a full field in the Hollywood Turf Cup-G2 at Del Mar. In the stretch, he showed why he deserved top billing. Stalking the leader, Arklow looked like he was going to take over the lead after a half mile. The horse in front dug deep and did not relent until inside the eighth-pole when Arklow took command and drove to a half-length victory in the conclusion of his 6-year-old campaign. He came up through Franklin "Goree" Smith's program at the Elloree Training Center.

December 5 was a big day at Gulfstream Park for South Carolina grads, as two were winners of Claiming Crown stakes. Both were developed for their racing careers by Randy and Kayla Rentz. Jakarta was third along the rail heading towards the top of the stretch in the Claiming Crown Distaff Dash. She then angled to the outside and put her head in front before hitting the sixteenth-pole and came to the wire 2¼ lengths in front. Ninety minutes later in the Claiming Crown Rapid Transit Stakes, Avant Garde settled in the back half of the field early on. He worked his way past those in front of him and in a steady drive got up in time to win by a half length.

The Remsen Stakes-G2 is a major fixture on the New York racing calendar each year for 2-year-olds. Held at Aqueduct, the connections of the winner start having Kentucky Derby dreams. The winner of the 2020 version held Dec. 5 was Brooklyn Strong. A graduate of Travis Durr's Webb Carroll Training Center, Brooklyn Strong had only one beat after the opening half mile. In the stretch he was asked the question, and in a determined effort, got up to win by a neck.

One more Elloree Training Center student, Logical Myth, captured the Buddy Diliberto Memorial Stakes at Fair Grounds Dec. 19. Third at each call until inside the quarter-pole, Logical Myth, while four wide, made a desperate rally to win by a hard fought neck.

We are happy to put 2020 behind us and we look forward to having our equine athletes put many smiles on our faces in 2021!

From the Archives



During the mid-1960s, Allaire duPont and her champion homebred, the mighty Kelso, were regular winter season visitors. *Photo by O C Cato.*

Subcommittee Update

A subcommittee of SCTOBA members was put together in January 2020 to explore how ADW (Advance Deposit Wagering) can be introduced into South Carolina. The first step is to show our legislators how important the equine industry is to our state, job related and economically. ADW can be a source of revenue that can help enable bonus money for South Carolina owners and breeders. This will make it more appealing to help enhance the breeding industry in South Carolina.

A bill has been introduced to form a committee consisting of legislators and horse people to study the impact of the equine industry. Progress was starting to be made before Covid-19 reared its ugly head. The state legislature went back in session on Jan. 12. We believe the organization of a committee will soon follow.

Annual banquet postponed

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused numerous cancellations of events since the middle of March 2020. Due to the fact the number of "positives" is not diminishing in South Carolina, the SCTOBA Annual Awards Banquet will be postponed until we are comfortable inviting a guest speaker and being able to enjoy the evening in person.

We do want to emphasize that our intention is to postpone this event, not cancel it! We look forward to honoring the horses and their connections this coming spring.

SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Zanesville	Webb Carroll Training Center	12/20/20	Fair Grounds	Allowance
LOGICAL MYTH	Elloree Training Center	12/19/20	Fair Grounds	Buddy Diliberto Memorial S
Regular Guy	Elloree Training Center	12/19/20	Fair Grounds	Maiden Special Weight
Am Impazible	Elloree Training Center	12/18/20	Aqueduct	Allowance
Closer Look	Webb Carroll Training Center	12/18/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Social Paranoia	Custom Care-D. Freyer	12/16/20	Gulfstream Park	Allowance
Donegal Bay	Elloree Training Center	12/12/20	Gulfstream Park	Maiden Special Weight
Luna Fortis	Aiken - Legacy Stable	12/12/20	Turfway Park	Allowance
Dionysus Chalice	Rentz Farm	12/11/20	Charles Town	Allowance
Golden Gulley	Aiken - Cary Frommer/ Kirkwood Stables	12/11/20	Laurel Park	Maiden Special Weight
Miss Leslie	Webb Carroll Training Center	12/11/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Nana's Shoes	Elloree Training Center	12/11/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Dixie Draw	Elloree Training Center	12/10/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Moonachie	Webb Carroll Training Center	12/10/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Reassured	Aiken - Cary Frommer	12/10/20	Laurel Park	Maiden Special Weight
Rock On Lute	Rentz Farm	12/8/20	Parx Racing	Allowance
Still Alive	Aiken - Cary Frommer	12/8/20	Parx Racing	Starter Allowance
Honor Life	Webb Carroll Training Center	12/6/20	Mountaineer Park	Allowance
Zanesville	Webb Carroll Training Center	12/6/20	Fair Grounds	Allowance
AVANT GARDE	Rentz Farm	12/5/20	Gulfstream Park	Claiming Crown Rapid Transit S
BROOKLYN STRONG	Webb Carroll Training Center	12/5/20	Aqueduct	Remsen S-G2
JAKARTA	Rentz Farm	12/5/20	Gulfstream Park	Claiming Crown Distaff Dash S
A Life That's Good	Webb Carroll Training Center	12/4/20	Aqueduct	Maiden Special Weight
It's a Gamble	Webb Carroll Training Center	12/4/20	Aqueduct	Allowance
Silent Malice	Webb Carroll Training Center	12/4/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Little Miss Raelyn	Webb Carroll Training Center	12/3/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Lenten Rose	Elloree Training Center	12/2/20	Tampa Bay	Maiden Special Weight
Oxide	Aiken-Cary Frommer	11/29/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Runway Magic	Webb Carroll Training Center	11/28/20	Churchill Downs	Maiden Special Weight
ARKLOW	Elloree Training Center	11/27/20	Del Mar	Hollywood Turf Cup-G2
Blossom Road	Rentz Farm	11/27/20	Churchill Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Funnybet	Elloree Training Center	11/27/20	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Hog Creek Hustle	Elloree Training Center	11/27/20	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Irish Hustle	Kirkwood Stables	11/27/20	Fair Grounds	Allowance
Closer Look	Webb Carroll Training Center	11/26/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Gianna's Gift	Elloree Training Center	11/26/20	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Logical Myth	Elloree Training Center	11/26/20	Fair Grounds	Allowance
Money for Mischief	Elloree Training Center	11/26/20	Churchill Downs	Starter Allowance
Reason to Soar	Kirkwood Stables	11/26/20	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Smokum Peace Pipe	Rentz Farm	11/24/20	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Hieroglyphics	Aiken-Legacy Stable	11/21/20	Aqueduct	Allowance
Wow Brown	Webb Carroll Training Center	11/21/20	Aqueduct	Allowance
Hall Pass	Elloree Training Center	11/20/20	Laurel Park	Allowance

VIRGINIA



2020 Virginia Breeders Fund Awards Pay 40% For Wins at Tracks in North America

Virginia-bred Largent's three stakes and two allowance wins in 2020 triggered an $81,738 Virginia Breeders Fund bonus award for Lazy Lane Farm in Upperville, tops among any horse and breeding farm in the Commonwealth. Virginia Breeders awards took a big step forward in 2020, averaging 40% of each winning purse at tracks across North America compared with 22% in 2019.

"I'm extremely excited that the Virginia breeders are starting to reap the rewards from the growing revenue streams we have now in Virginia," said Virginia Thoroughbred Association Executive Director Debbie Easter. "We certainly don't breed as many horses as we once did, but I have to believe that our breeders are as happy as they have ever been. What other state pays a 40% breeders bonus for a win anywhere in North America? What's even better is I expect that percentage to increase in the coming years. Right now, it really pays to breed horses in Virginia."

Lazy Lane Farm in Upperville topped all breeders with $176,385 in overall bonus earnings courtesy of 17 winners. Largent, a Todd Pletcher trainee that is headed to the Grade I Pegasus World Cup Turf Invitational, led the way with five wins including a pair of early season allowance scores at Gulfstream, Virginia-bred wins in the Edward P. Evans and Bert Allen Stakes, and a season-topper in the Grade 2 Fort Lauderdale Stakes, good for a $25,000 bonus. Lazy Lane's Creative Genius also chipped in with four wins from a busy 13-start year.

Mr. & Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III were next with 13 wins and bonus earnings of $119,993. Five different horses won a pair of races including Virginia Beach, who delivered a $18,997 bonus in capturing the M. Tyson Gilpin Stakes at Laurel. Attachment Rate, Holding Fast, Hold Me Black and Assume each had two wins while their Passion Play, with an allowance win at Delaware, produced a $15,958 bonus.

Audley Farm Equine was third in bonus winnings of $63,199 with seven wins. Tasting the Stars tied for the fourth highest bonus, $18,997, by winning the Brookmeade Stakes. The 5-year-old Bodemeister mare is 4-for-6 lifetime but made only two starts in 2020. Steeplechase jumper Curve of Stones earned a pair of $6,332 bonuses by winning the National Sporting Library Stakes in Middleburg and the International Gold Cup at Great Meadow.

Morgan's Ford Farm was next with Breeders prize earnings of $59,526 from nine winners circle trips. Chess Chief, a 5-year-old Into Mischief horse trained by Dallas Stewart, captured a pair of allowance races at Fair Grounds while Lynchburg recorded a maiden special weight win at Colonial Downs last summer. Bear Trappe and Appraised chipped in with two wins apiece.

Jim & Katie FitzGerald bankrolled $55,923 in bonuses from eight winners. Tan and Tight, a 5-year-old Uncle Mo mare, delivered their bonus high of $15,789 from a maiden special weight score at Aqueduct while Soldado's two allowance wins at Gulfstream returned a pair of $11,000-plus rewards.

Kenny Had a Notion's trio of wins gave breeder Althea Richards a series of five-digit bonuses. The now 3-year-old Great Notion gelding connected in late July with a maiden special weight triumph at Delaware followed by wins in the Jamestown and Maryland Million Nursery Stakes, both at Laurel. The three combined to produce $54,882 in awards.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:
Top: Virginia Beach and connections after winning the M. Tyson Gilpin Stakes at Laurel. Photo by Jim McCue.



The William Backer Revocable Trust parlayed ten wins into awards of $44,411, topped by Day Dayenu's maiden special weight win at Woodbine and a $13,050 bonus. Divine Interventio had three victories, which helped lead the 8-year-old Malibu Moon gelding to his 30th career "top three" finish. Hilltop Harmony and First Talent also collected a pair of wins.

Larry Johnson, Chance Farm and Carlos Moore & Jill Gordon-Moore round out the list of breeders that scored total reward monies of $30,000 or more. Nine-year-old Sir Rockport, bred by Johnson's Legacy Farm, continued a series of strong late career showings with six wins in 2020. The son of Rockport Harbor also had five in 2019. He has now recorded 11 of 15 lifetime scores as either a 7 or 8-year-old. Brooke Royster's Chance Farm rode Upgrade Me's success as a 4-year-old to four individual bonus outings, though Red Pepper Mill's maiden special weight triumph at Colonial last summer produced a $10,132 payday. Boldor's allowance win at Oaklawn last winter triggered the third highest breeders bonus, $22,290, for the Moore's. The 5-year-old Munnings gelding is trained by Steve Asmussen.

A total of $50,000 in stallion awards were distributed among three owners with 15 winners and combined purse earnings of $345,510. Horses sired by Smallwood Farms' Friend or Foe won six and took $34,470 of the stallion reward pool. Mr. Buff led the way again with a trio of stakes scores in New York --- the Haynesfield, Jazil and the Empire Classic Handicap. The 7-year-old gelding has amassed $1.2 million from 15 lifetime outs. In 2020 alone, he bankrolled $307,500. Goodluckchuck, sired by Anne Bonda Hartman's Big Picture, won three races at Laurel to produce a $10,002 bonus payout. Four different horses by Susan Minor's Fierce Wind got to the winners circle a combined six times last year.

Between Virginia-bred and stallion awards, $1 million in bonus monies will be distributed via the Breeders Fund. A total of 32 different breeders shared in the prize pool, which came from 137 winning Virginia-bred horses that accumulated purse earnings of $2,308,840.

The Virginia Breeders Fund is generated by one percent of every dollar wagered in Virginia on live racing and via OTB and ADW betting. Each year, the Virginia Racing Commission approves how the money in the Fund is allocated. A large portion is set aside for payments to breeders of registered Virginia-breds that win races at any track in North America. There is a $25,000 cap on any single award.



PHOTO CAPTIONS:
Top - Sir Rockport provided breeder Larry Johnson with 11 bonus wins over the last two years. Photo by Jim McCue.
Bottom Right - Tasting the Stars captures the Brookmeade Stakes at Laurel October 9. Photo by Jim McCue.

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter February 2021

The Young, Restless and a Ho Ho Ho

By Jeff Gilleas

The Chinese have long subscribed to the philosophy of Yin and Yang. It is a concept of dualism, where seemingly contrary forces may actually be complimentary or interconnected. Two halves that together complete wholeness.

December stakes performances by Star of Night and V. I. P. Ticket at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races symbolized the power of the feminine (Yin) and the masculine (Yang), as they respectively captured the My Sister Pearl and A Huevo Stakes.

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY (2)



Jeff C. Runco sent out 3-year-old Star of Night to defeat her elders in the My Sister Pearl.



A.R.D. Racing Stables' V. I. P. Ticket recorded his first stakes win in the A Huevo.

Star of Night, a daughter of Creative Cause out of Splendiferous Moon, by Malibu Moon, has rocketed to the head of her class, while aspiring to imitate the proficiency of recently retired West Virginia distaff legends Late Night Pow Wow and Moonlit Song. The racy gray/roan filly, owned by Huntertown Farm LLC and bred by Heinz Steinmann, entered the My Sister Pearl Dec. 12 sporting back-to-back wins in the Sylvia Bishop Memorial and West Virginia Tourism Office Breeders Classic, both for 3-year-old fillies.

Flawlessly prepared by 15-year reigning "King of the Ring" trainer Jeff Runco, Star of Night and her principal adversary, the year-older Bridging the Gap, winner of the influential Cavada, staged an inspired duel from flag fall to finish. The two worthy competitors expended every ounce of energy as they mirrored each other racing the unfamiliar distance of 1⅛ miles. Star of Night has never been worse than second in eight career outings, while earning $157,780. Facing nine others, she was bet down to 3-5 favoritism over 2-1 Bridging the Gap, who gamely held on until the final yards. It was almost 9 lengths back to third place finisher See Ya Manana.

Time for the three-turn marathon was a pedestrian 1:55.81, seven seconds off the track record held by Moreno. She Figures, who answered the call at the distance in dominating fashion on Breeders Classics night in the Distaff, was surprisingly far back early and never threatened.

Arnaldo Bocachica has been aboard Star of Night in all of her races and remains Jeff Runco's go-to money rider.

Creative Cause is a son of Giant's Causeway who bankrolled over $1 million in a 10-race career. Star of Night was his leading money-earner of 2020.

The A Huevo Stakes the day before resurfaced on the winter schedule after being canceled the previous week due to a lighting issue and **V. I. P. Ticket** unquestionably stamped himself as a contender for older males by way of an authoritative victory.

The Maryland-bred son of Windsor Castle, out of the stakes-placed Cherokee's Boy mare Touring Hong Kong, is no stranger to the Charles Town surface, having made eight of his 26 starts at the track and never finishing worse than third. However, his impressive outing over a field that included such notables as: Runnin'toluvya, North Atlantic and Awsome Faith was his initial stakes success. The Jeremiah O'Dwyer trainee has $221,548 in career earnings.

Bred by Dr. Alexandro Rubim Dias and owned by A.R.D. Stables, the cosmopolitan runner, now 5, raced at Laurel Park, Charles Town,

Delaware Park, Monmouth Park and Aqueduct in 2020.

Allowed to settle off the early pace by Gerald Almodovar, V. I. P. Ticket moved in unison with North Atlantic going into the far turn, momentarily stalled, then re-broke inside the final eighth-mile to draw clear by 4 lengths. Millionaire Runnin'toluvya was installed as the post time 3-2 favorite, but didn't exhibit the customary flair that's carried him to multiple stakes wins. Awsome Faith, winner of the West Virginia Breeders Classics (37-1), again garnered little respect at the windows (12-1) but closed late to finish third.

After punching his black-type in the A Huevo, the hard-knocking bay returned to his homebase of Laurel Park in the Native Dancer Stakes in late December, but only managed a general admission fifth-place response.

Ho-Ho-Ho

Veteran journeyman Wesley Ho ended 2020 by finishing eighth in the jockey standings, while his mounts earned in excess of $1 million. For many of his contemporaries it been a fatiguing year, with interruptions attributable to the coronavirus, yet Ho persevered with substantial assistance from horsemen John McKee and Anthony Rideoutt II.

Born and raised within the sanctuary of the grandstand lights, Wesley and his brother Chris have a bond that was inspired by horses and preserved through their mother, Theresa Brice Ho. Wesley and Chris's father Gene was a successful rider on the local circuit and obviously imparted to his boys a work ethnic and kindred spirit.

One week before Christmas, Wesley was able to share a special moment with his mother, when a horse she owns and bred dominated a West Virginia maiden special weight race for 2-year-olds. Ministry of Magic, a son of Limehouse out of Broad But Nice (by Seeking Daylight) was making his fifth career start. After being narrowly defeated in his previous effort, nothing was left to chance as he drew away to a 7¾-length margin.

Following a nondescript seventh place finish in his debut in September, the attractive dark bay had shown a steady pattern of progression, culminating in his first win and a career high Beyer number of 74. Trainer Anthony (A.J.) Rideoutt II maintains a modest string of five to eight horses in Barn 21, but never underestimate the quality of care or attention to detail his runners individually receive. In 2020, with all the distractions credited to Covid-19, his barn remained a consistent 55 percent in the money.

The dam of Ministry of Magic has been an incantation of joy for the Ho family. Broad But Nice was a hard-knocking mare on the racetrack, winning 12 of her 31 starts with six seconds and three thirds and was multiple stakes-placed. Nice n' Broad, a half-sister to Ministry of Magic, successfully campaigned for the team of Ho and Rideoutt making just over $100,000.

Chris recently accepted a job independent from the racetrack. A once budding career as a jockey was cut short due to a combination of injuries, however he is never too far away to cheer on his brother and mother. The configuration of the Ho triad confirms the importance in their world of family, horses and ultimately the winner's circle.

NOTES TO MEMBERS

◆ **The 10-10-10 program** is now called the **Supplemental Purse Award Claim**, for which there are new forms. All claims must be submitted to the WV Racing Commission within 15 days from the date the purse is awarded. Claim forms are available on the WV Racing Commission website, racing.wv.gov.

◆ If you are selling or planning to sell your accredited WV-bred and/or sired horse, please contact the WVTBA. The WVTBA has started supplying sellers of **accredited WV-bred and/or sired horses** with **hip stickers and stall-card stickers** to make it easier for buyers to identify these horses. Contact the WVTBA office at (304) 728-6868 or by e-mail at wvbreeders@gmail.com.

◆ **WV Certificates** will be issued seven to 10 days after the WVTBA receives the original registration form application, all required paperwork and payment.

◆ The WVTBA office is located at 110 South George Street, Suite 4, Charles Town, WV 25414.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.
More information may be found at www.wvtba.net.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

Mailing address: P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414
Phone: (304) 728-6868 • Fax: (304) 724-7870 • Web site: www.wvtba.net
Office location: 202 East Liberty St., Charles Town, Charles Town, WV 25414. Hours: 10-2 pm, Tuesday through Saturday



"Prava" - A steeplechase story for all ages

By Betsy Burke Parker

Co-champion jockey in 2019, Michael Mitchell is a most unexpected 21st century Dr. Seuss.

Woodville Award winner in 2019 and seven-time sheriff's deputy of the year, Chris "Reggie" Williams is an unlikely collaborator.

But the two of them have turned a 37-second interaction in the saddling enclosure at Saratoga into what they hope will become a beloved children's book series.

After a fast start on the Amazon best-seller list, that might be where "Prava's Steeplechase Adventure" is headed.

The book, which debuted at number 4 on Amazon's competitive "new children's release" list, features a simple, easy-to-follow storyline tracing the adventure of a racehorse on the National Steeplechase circuit. Illustrated by children around the world, the story is based on the universal themes of friendship, inclusiveness and self-confidence.

Early reviewers call it a welcome relief in this year of distancing and fear, a perfect antidote to everything that was wrong with 2020. "A phenomenal book for kids," writes Amazon reviewer Mrs. P. "This book is catered to kids through their eyes. The illustrations are the cutest which kids can relate to, because they drew them. A great gift for the holidays. Love it!"

It's not just verified purchasers on Amazon that are raving about "Prava." National Steeplechase Association leaders are on track with the project.

"When Reggie told me about their idea for the children's book, it rang so many bells for me," said NSA president Al Griffin. "Those two represent the heart and soul of steeplechasing.

"Their message is multi-layered and not contrived. We needed this kind of 'feel good' in this most difficult season.

"Anyone who hears this story will be uplifted."

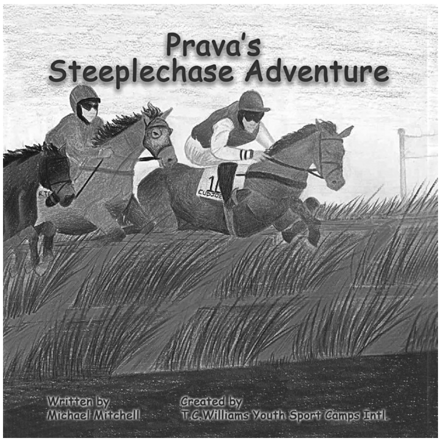


Reggie Williams
©Betsy Burke Parker

MEET THE CREATOR – CHRIS 'REGGIE' WILLIAMS:

Thomas Christopher Williams was born and raised in rural northern Virginia. He earned the nickname Reggie – Reggie Jackson, when he played league baseball.

Now 52, Williams is a career sheriff's deputy in Prince William County west of Washington, D.C. Two years ago, he established T.C. Williams Youth Sports Camps, an international nonprofit run for underprivileged children "to discover the inner and out strength you can get from playing sports."



NSA board member Mike Hankin - real-life owner of the real-life Pravalaguna, the main character in the book, agrees. "Reggie's work with kids' sports has been impressive, and for good reason - he knows what appeals to kids," Hankin said. "He took Michael's words and combined them with an opportunity for kids to express themselves through art.

"We're thrilled to support the effort."

How It Happened

Williams was working for leading trainer Jack Fisher at the Saratoga racecourse in August. There, he and Mitchell took turns consoling a particularly nervous young hurdler, alternatively singing, whistling and speaking to the horse.

"I noticed Mikey was talking like he was actually the horse, seeing things through the horse's eyes," Williams said. "As we went around the paddock, Mikey said 'Oh, there's



Williams leads City Dreamer, with Mikey Mitchell in the irons, to post at the Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes in Saratoga in July 2020. *©Tod Marks*

that security guard. He was here last week. I'm surprised he hasn't gone home yet.'

"He was making it like the horse thought people stayed where they were, all the time.

"Right then, right there, I knew there was a children's book. A steeplechase story told through the horse's eyes."

"Most horses are soothed by the sound of humans, it's a reassuring technique," Mitchell said. "Using your voice is an asset in riding – the topic of conversation doesn't matter."

Today's book publishing is unbelievably simple, Williams added. "It was, literally 90 days from concept to printing," he said. "Amazon does it all – they suggest sizes and binding, and we chose the printing, and a designer friend on the (sheriff's) force helped us lay it out with the drawings and story.

"Amazon prints each book as they're ordered."

Williams has the outline for a second book in what he wants to become a series already – Prava gets married, has a foal, the foal grows up and races, and Prava retires to become a therapy horse for underprivileged children.

Mitchell said he's on board.

"Kids' books don't have to make sense, they need to make magic," Williams said. "We don't have to explain a stallion actually (breeds) 50 to 100 mares a year, and that he doesn't 'marry' any of them. That doesn't matter. What matters is the foal has a mother and a father that are proud of him. We get across the theme of family values and self-confidence. That's all we need."

MEET THE WRITER – MICHAEL MITCHELL:

Mikey Mitchell, 30, was born in Warwickshire, England. He's been riding on the U.S. circuit since 2014, full-time since 2017.

Mitchell has never written a book before, but he said, actually, it was fairly easy once Williams dreamed up the idea. "It was quite simple as I just put on paper the daily routine of what is required (of a horse) at the races," Mitchell explained. "The story line was changed a little to suit the audience, and to provide life lessons and a better story."

MEET PRAVA – PRAVALAGUNA:

Champion trainer in Ireland, Willie Mullins brought five-time jumps winner Pravalaguna to the American championship steeplechase in New Jersey last October. She won the distaff hurdle stakes and stamping herself as a future standout for new owner Mike Hankin's Bruton Street U.S. syndicate.

Pravalaguna was foaled in France in 2012. The bay mare is a granddaughter of champion sire Sadler's Wells. She raced in Ireland, England and France, winning once on the turf, three times over hurdles and twice over the big 'chase fences before coming to the U.S.


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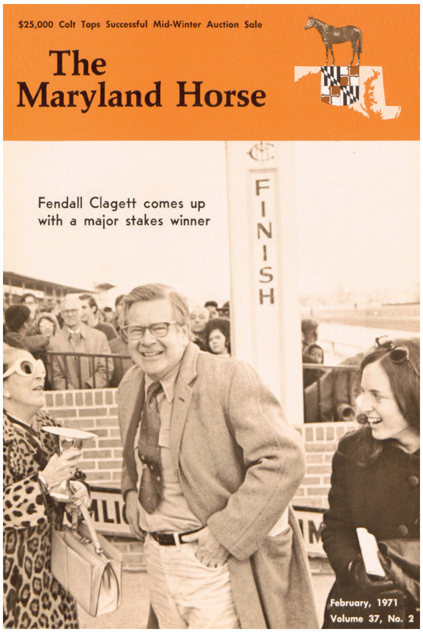
STALLIONS

OTHER ADVERTISERS





Looking Back



50 years ago

■ When 2-year-old Maryland-bred filly At Arms Length was to be sold by the estate of her breeder, E. Taylor Chewning, at a November Belmont Park horses of racing age sale, trainer Eddie Gaudet urged his client Fendall Clagett to buy her. Even though she boasted a solitary win at Timonium in her four starts, Clagett purchased the filly privately from Chewning's son Taylor for $15,000, and immediately bumped into Israel "Izzy" Cohen, who went in for half. Three months later Clagett and Cohen owned a multiple stakes winner.

At Arms Length won Liberty Bell's Heirloom Handicap in January and two weeks later captured Pimlico's Flirtation Stakes. Clagett had known At Arms Length's dam, having stood the filly's sire Nashver at his Larking Hill Farm, and remembered Chewning offering the mare–described by Clagett as an "absolute nut"–for $1, which was promptly turned down. "I told him: 'Mr. Chewning, I think the world of you and your family. But one present I really don't need is a one dollar broodmare."

The best horse ever bred by Maryland Racing Commission member Chewning, At Arms Length would later win Pimlico's Black-Eyed Susan Stakes and counted the Kentucky Oaks among her stakes placings as she earned $107,562 in 18 starts. One of the leaders of her division, she succumbed to colitis-X and laminitis at New Bolton Center that August.

■ Mary McLennan, wife of former racing secretary Charles J. McLennan, daughter of Hall of Fame trainer Max Hirsch, and the first licensed woman trainer (in 1934), bred her first stakes winner when the 3-year-old Maryland-bred gelding Royal J.D. won Liberty Bell's Allegheny. After more than 20 years of breeding horses, the McLennans no longer had horses at their Welcome Here Farm in Glyndon, Md., after a shortage of farm help forced them to sell.



Maryland racing luminaries: Mary McLennan and her husband Charles at their Welcome Here Farm.

"With her husband retired and her broodmares sold, Mrs. McLennan finds life today a far cry from those days of frenzied activity when Charlie wrote races at Pimlico, Laurel, Havre de Grace, Hialeah. . . and when her father, the great, remarkable Max Hirsch, sent her horse after horse to turn out on the farm. . . " wrote Snowden Carter. "Oh, I might get back into it," she responded. "But it's a lot easier when you have youth on your side."

Mary McLennan can be found featured in the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame's current "Women in Racing" exhibit.

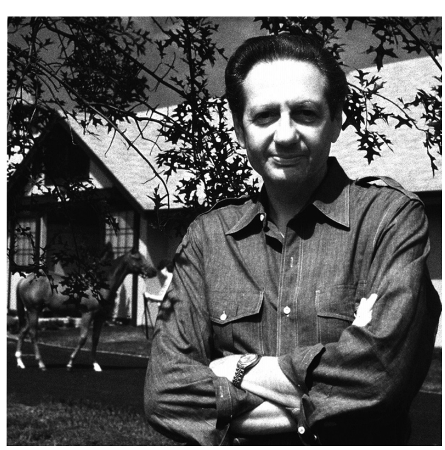
25 years ago

■ Richard Golden, CEO of clothing manufacturer Dorby Frocks Ltd., spent each weekday commuting from his Wilmington, Del., home to his New York City office. But weekends and any other time in between was for the horses, as Golden minded matters at his 575-acre Sycamore Hall Farm near Chesapeake City, Md., and Northview Stallion Station, of which he was managing partner.

As Northview became a regional success story and the linchpin of the Maryland stallion market, Golden reflected on Maryland's Thoroughbred industry.

"I believe it is better than it has ever been. I don't want to sound self-serving but I have always felt that the stallions in any region are the basis for how that region's business is going to perform.

"As long as the quality of our stallions keeps growing, and the offspring of those stallions run in the Maryland Million and other races, the region will keep growing."



Richard Golden discussed horses and the breeding industry in an interview with Tim Capps.

■ Edward L. Bowen reflected on Maryland-bred Tred Avon, widely regarded as the best older distaffer of 1932, whose 22 career victories included a defeat of the mighty Equipoise. A gray daughter of *Sir Greysteel out of a *Durbar II mare, Tred Avon was bred and owned by Sylvester W. Labrot, owner of Holly Beach Farm in Anne Arundel County, Md., and named for a river on the Eastern Shore.

A section of the countryside of Holly Beach was retained as green space when the family turned over a portion of it to the state, and it is now known as Sandy Point State Park.

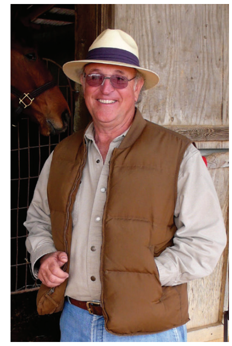
■ John P. Pons, a three-term president of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association during the 1950s and longtime leader in Maryland's Thoroughbred racing and breeding industries, died in January at 80.

Instrumental in helping his father Adolphe develop Country Life Farm in Bel Air, Pons worked with his brother Joe to stand a succession of prominent stallions including Saggy (sire of 1961 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Carry Back), Correspondent (sire of 1961 Belmont Stakes winner Sherluck), Big Brave and Rash Prince.

10 years ago

■ Christmas arrived early for Maryland's racing community after an emergency meeting held by the Maryland Racing Commission resulted in approval of the Maryland Jockey Club's plan for racing in 2011, which included 146 days of live racing. The meeting convened almost 24 hours after the commission had unanimously rejected the MJC's revision of its initial plan presented to the MRC Nov. 29, where they proposed to conduct less than a "full year" (146 days) of live racing, which would have shut down racing in the state.

■ Charles Town was set to host its first graded race in its 77-year history as the $1 million Charles Town Classic was named a Grade 3 by the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association's American Graded Stakes Committee. Also upgraded in the region were the Presque Isle Downs Masters Stakes, to Grade 2, and Parx Racing's Turf Monster, to Grade 3. Of note was the loss of the Pimlico Special's Grade 1 status due to a two-year hiatus making it ineligible for grading.



■ Webb Carroll Training Center in St. Matthews, S.C., had a fantastic roster of graduates, with a program that turned out the likes of Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner War Emblem, major winners Offlee Wild, Tale of the Cat and Old Fashioned, along with stars such as top filly Havre de Grace (who would be named Horse of the Year by year's end) and Payton d'Oro. With third-generation Thoroughbred horseman Webb Carroll at the helm for 25 years, the business attracted clients large and small, including George Strawbridge Jr., Lazy Lane Farm, Dan Ryan, Bayard Sharp, Sonny Hine and Richard Golden.

In October 2016, Carroll's assistant Travis Durr purchased the training center from his boss.

■ Tony Dutrow ranked as the leading Mid-Atlantic-based trainer by money-earned in 2010 (with $6,365,868), and ninth on the national list of leading trainers, and his remarkable 29 percent win ratio was the highest of any trainer among the top 50. Along with collecting his 1,500th career victory, Dutrow's horses won a total of 19 stakes, eight graded, including Saratoga's Grade 1 Ballerina with Rightly So.

■ Hall of Fame trainer Mackenzie "Mack" Miller, who gained his greatest success with the late Paul Mellon's Rokeby Farm in Virginia, died at age 89.

Launching his career with horses after serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, Miller gained national prominence as private trainer for Charles Engelhard, developing grass champions Assagai and *Hawaii, as well as major winners Halo, Mr. Leader and Tentam.

Hired by Mellon in 1977, Miller was involved in all phases of Rokeby Farm, and saddled Virginia-bred Sea Hero to win the 1993 Kentucky Derby-G1 and Travers Stakes-G1. In all, he trained 72 stakes winners, including 1987 Travers and Whitney Stakes-G1 winner Java Gold, champions Leallah and *Snow Knight and top handicap horses Winter's Tale and Fit to Fight.

Miller retired from training 1995, when the Rokeby racing stock was dispersed.

75 years ago

■ Marylander Fred H. Parks, who recently resigned as secretary and handicapper for the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association, was hired as general manager of the new Atlantic City race track, due to hold it's first meet later in the year, according to John B. Kelly, president of the Atlantic City Racing Association.

One of racing's most popular officials, Parks had extensive experience in every phase of the sport, starting his career on the Maryland half-mile track circuit to eventually serving in the racing secretary's office at Pimlico, Laurel, Bowie and Havre de Grace. Other duties included being placing judge at major tracks, and secretary of the breeding bureau of The Jockey Club.

■ Matt L. Daiger retired from his position as secretary and general manager of Pimlico. As president of the Maryland State Fair, he would now focus on the reopening of the fair and Timonium. Since the Army had taken over the fairgrounds in 1942 there had been significant changes. Work was to begin by March to get the stands, stables, offices and track back in shape, with many improvements planned.



Matt L. Daiger retired from Pimlico to focus on the reopening of Timonium and the Maryland State Fair.

Daiger, who would be 74 in March, had been associated with Pimlico since 1898, secretary since 1905 and became general manager in 1926. He would remain on the track's board of directors.

■ Bowie was getting a face lift in preparation for the 1946 racing season. Having been closed since the fall of 1942, the track was due to reopen in April. Improvements to cost around $250,000 were being rushed to completion.

Fasig-Tipton Company, in promoting its August Saratoga yearling sale, also promoted the upcoming Saratoga race meet, the first since 1942.

"It returns with an enormous jump in both stakes and purses. . . there is to be an overhauling and renovating of the entire racing plant and track. But best of all it will still be Saratoga!" read the advertisement, "with all the tradition the name implies. What a place!"

■ Maryland Horsemen's Protective Association executive secretary H.H. Ferguson had the opportunity to see an artist's drawing of the new track being constructed in Monmouth County near Long Branch, N.J., located on the site of the old Elkwood track which flourished briefly about 50 years earlier. "From all indications it is going to be one of the most beautiful tracks in the country," he noted. The New Jersey Racing Commission had allotted 36 racing days for the following summer.

"With a modern track such as this, plus more in the future. . . we in Maryland are going to receive some real competition. . . Picking non-competitive racing dates will soon be a thing of the past," he wrote.

"It might be well therefore, if the Maryland racing interests, and that includes horsemen's associations, racing associations, breeders and the Racing Commission, started pulling together."



Elkridge-Harford Hunt. Huntsman Dallas Leith (center) and whippers-in Bill Norris and Jack Graybeal usher the hounds out for a (somewhat snowy) hunt in February 1962.

Photojournalist A. Aubrey Bodine, who worked at the Baltimore *Sun* for 50 years – from 1920 until his death in 1970 – captured many scenes of Maryland horses, farms and racing. He was regarded worldwide as one of the finest pictorialists of the 20th century. *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* features his work in Past Time.

Image #09-070 www.aaubreybodine.com
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Clean sweep of Maryland-sired classes at 2020 MHBA Yearling Show, with the Reserve Grand Champion